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Trump targeted in attempted assassination at his golf course

Ex-president 'safe and unharmed', suspect is held and gun recovered

Richard Luscombe *Miami*
Maya Yang

A suspect was in custody and an AK-47 style assault rifle and scope recovered at Donald Trump's golf course in Florida yesterday after what the FBI called "an attempted assassination of the former president".

An agent with the US Secret Service spotted the rifle of a firearm poking through a fence in a wooded area at the Trump International club in West Palm Beach, where Trump was playing, officials said.

The agent, part of a security team scouting the course ahead of Trump, opened fire and the suspect fled, Palm Beach county sheriff Ric Bradshaw told reporters at a press conference.

He said a witness took photographs of the suspect and the vehicle he drove off in, and a person was stopped and detained on Interstate 95 by deputies in Martin county, immediately north of Palm Beach county, soon afterwards.

Trump was surrounded by security personnel and was unharmed in the incident, which occurred at about 1.30pm local time as he was between the fifth and sixth holes, Bradshaw said, adding that



▲ In an email to supporters after the incident on his golf course in Florida, Donald Trump wrote: 'Nothing will slow me down' PHOTOGRAPH: ALEX BRANDON/AP

Jewish Chronicle writers quit over 'fabrications'

Matthew Weaver

A number of prominent columnists have resigned in protest from the Jewish Chronicle (JC) after allegations it printed articles about the Gaza conflict based on "wild fabrications".

The weekly title, the world's oldest

Jewish newspaper, is facing calls for an investigation after it deleted nine articles by Elon Perry because of doubts over their accuracy and concerns he had misrepresented his CV.

The sensationalist articles by the former Israel Defense Forces (IDF) soldier allegedly included fabricated claims about Israeli intelligence. In a brief statement

Fears PM 'seeks to copy far right' on migration

Aletha Adu *Rome*
Rajeev Syal

Keir Starmer is under pressure from Labour backbenchers and NGOs to distance his government from Giorgia Meloni's hard-right immigration policies on the eve of bilateral talks in Rome.

After the foreign secretary, David Lammy, said Britain would consider copying Italy's plans to process asylum applicants in a third country such as Albania, one backbencher questioned why a Labour administration was "seeking to learn lessons from a neo-fascist government".

The Refugee Council and Amnesty International

UK to get first special envoy for nature

Move is part of effort to put Britain at centre of tackling climate crisis

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A group of six diverse young adults (three women and three men) are standing together in a lush garden. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The garden is filled with greenery, including trees and bushes, and numerous monarch butterflies are flying around them. In the background, there is a large, white, two-story house with a grey roof. The overall atmosphere is bright and cheerful.

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Media, Kings Place, 90 York Way, London N1 9GU, and at
Centurion House, 129 Deansgate, Manchester M3 3WR.
Printed at Reach Watford Limited, St Albans Road,
Watford, Herts WD24 7RG; Reach Oldham Limited,
Hollinwood Avenue, Chadderton, Oldham OL9 8EP;
Reach Saltire Ltd, 110 Fifty Pitches Place, Glasgow
G51 4EA; and by Irish Times Print Facility, 4080
Kingswood Road, Citywest Business Campus, Dublin 24.
No. 55,389, Monday 16 September 2024. Registered as
a newspaper at the Post Office ISSN 0261-3077.

News

Writers quit Jewish Chronicle over Gaza article 'fabrications'

Continued from page 1

on Friday announcing the deletions, the paper said it was not satisfied by some of Perry's claims. "The Jewish Chronicle has concluded a thorough investigation into freelance journalist Elon Perry ... after allegations were made about aspects of his record," it said. "While we understand he did serve in the Israel Defense Forces, we were not satisfied with some of his claims. We have therefore removed his stories from our website and ended any association with Mr Perry."

"The Jewish Chronicle maintains the highest journalistic standards in a highly contested information landscape and we deeply regret the chain of events that led to this point. We apologise to our loyal readers and have reviewed our internal processes so that this will not be repeated."

Yesterday, four of the JC's columnists, David Baddiel, Jonathan Freedland, David Aaronovitch and Hadley Freeman, announced they had resigned in protest over the scandal.

In a letter to the editor, Jake Wallis Simons, posted on X, Freedland said he was quitting the paper to which he had contributed for 26 years. Freedland, a columnist for the Guardian, wrote: "The latest scandal brings great disgrace on the paper - publishing fabricated stories and showing only the thinnest form of contrition - but it is only the latest. Too often, the JC reads like a partisan, ideological instrument, its judgments political rather than journalistic."

He added: "Of course, all newspapers make mistakes and run articles that writers on the paper dislike. The



▲ IDF forces launch an attack in Gaza. Elon Perry's JC pieces purported to offer intelligence on Hamas. David Baddiel and Jonathan Freedland, below, have quit the paper



problem in this case is that there can be no real accountability because the JC is owned by a person or people who refuse to reveal themselves.

"As you know, I and others have long urged transparency ... but nothing has happened."

He said he hoped to return to working for the paper but only when it "returns to its best traditions".

Aaronovitch reposted Freedland's comments, saying: "I have done the same." Baddiel retweeted Freedland's post. The writer and comedian's spokesperson said: "David has no plans to write any more columns for the paper but there is no further comment at this stage."

Freeman, a Sunday Times journalist, said in a separate post that recent events at the Jewish Chronicle had "made it impossible for me to stay".

Nazir Afzal, a former member of the independent press regulator Ipso, said he had been following the saga with "great dismay". Writing on X, he

said: "I think a 'standards investigation' is overdue."

Perry's articles purported to describe Israeli operations and intelligence on the Hamas leader, Yahya Sinwar. Last week Israeli press called his articles "fabrications" and suggested they were placed in European media to support Benjamin Netanyahu's negotiating position over Gaza.

Earlier in the month, the Israeli prime minister suggested that if the Gaza border area with Egypt was not under Israeli military control, then Sinwar could use it to escape, perhaps taking hostages with him.

The following day, an article by Perry in the JC claimed intelligence existed showing Sinwar planned to escape to Iran with the hostages. The story was later dismissed as a "wild fabrication" by the IDF.

Perry's claims about his background, including his supposed work as a journalist and academic, and parts of his military record, were also questioned in the Israeli press.

Wallis Simons and the JC have declined to describe how Perry came to write for the paper. Perry told the Observer the JC had made a "huge mistake" in announcing the deletion of his articles, describing criticism as "caused by jealousy from Israeli journalists and outlets who could not obtain the details that I managed to".

On Sunday, Wallis Simons wrote on X: "I understand why some columnists have decided to step back from the paper. I am grateful for their contributions and hope that, in time, some of them will feel able to return. I take full responsibility for the mistakes that have been made and I will take equal responsibility for the task of making sure nothing like this can happen again."

There have been continuing questions over the JC's ownership, with the Guardian's former editor Alan Rusbridger suggesting in April's Prospect magazine it was ultimately backed by a billionaire American, who has denied the claim.

Government set to appoint first special envoy for nature

Exclusive
Fiona Harvey
Environment editor

The government is planning to appoint a special envoy for nature for the first time, as the foreign secretary, David Lammy, seeks to put Britain at the centre of global efforts to tackle the world's ecological crises, the Guardian has learned.

Labour will also appoint a new climate envoy after the Tories abolished the post more than a year ago, a move that had dismayed foreign governments and climate campaigners.

Lammy, who met Sir David Attenborough this month to talk about the global response to the climate and nature crises, will make a major intervention on the topic this week.

He will say: "The threat of climate change may not feel as urgent as a terrorist or an autocrat. But it is more fundamental. It is systemic, pervasive and accelerating towards us."

Citing recent extreme weather in the Amazon, Syria and Africa, and the devastation caused by Hurricane Beryl in the Caribbean, Lammy will say global political leaders must take responsibility before climate breakdown further exacerbates conflict and migration.

"These are not random events delivered from the heavens. They are failures of politics, of regulation, and of international cooperation," he will say.

"These failures pour fuel into existing conflicts and regional rivalries, driving extremism and forced displacement. It would be a further failure of imagination to hope that they will stay far from our shores."

Ed Miliband, the energy security and net zero secretary, has already begun an international charm offensive on the climate, inviting the president of the next UN climate summit, Mukhtar Babayev of Azerbaijan, to Britain over the summer. Last month he visited Brazil, which is

chairing the G20 group of developed and developing nations this year, and will host the Cop30 UN climate summit next year.

Britain also hopes to announce strengthened commitments on cutting greenhouse gas emissions at this year's Cop29 UN climate summit in Azerbaijan in November.

The move to appoint two envoys has delighted campaigners, concerned by the last government's downgrading of the UK role in international climate and nature talks. Rishi Sunak snubbed important climate meetings as prime minister, and his abolition of the climate envoy post was seen by many as a backward step.

Chris Venables, the director of politics at the Green Alliance thinktank, said: "This sends a strong signal on the international stage that Labour are serious about the environmental agenda, after a lacklustre performance by the last government."

Rebecca Newsom, the head of politics at Greenpeace UK, said: "The

climate crisis and the destruction of nature are two of the biggest global threats we face.

"So appointing a special envoy to deal with each of them sends a clear signal that they're both foreign policy priorities for this government. And with major UN climate, biodiversity and plastics conferences just weeks away, there's a lot of diplomatic work to be done."

The two new envoys will work closely together, under the foreign secretary, and with Miliband and Reed. They will help to coordinate cross-government work on international nature and climate issues among the Foreign Office, the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Neither of the appointments has yet been decided, but the Guardian understands that the government is working from a shortlist on each role. Several prominent figures have been under consideration for the nature role, including Tony Juniper, the chair of Natural England and former chief of Friends of the Earth; Tanya Steele, chief executive of WWF UK; and Edward Davey, a former aide to the king as Prince of Wales, who is now at the World Resources Institute.

30%

The proportion of land Labour is committed to have restored or protected in Britain by 2030



◀ A picker harvests blueberries at Winterwood farm in Kent. Domestic growers supply a 10th of UK demand
PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN GODWIN/THE GUARDIAN

Purple patch for British blueberries as farmers enjoy fruits of sales boom

Zoe Wood

Whether they add them to smoothies or salads, or just pop them straight in their mouths, Britons are eating more blueberries than ever before. But whereas supermarket shelves used to be filled with imports, fruit growers are hailing a “British blueberry boom”.

Sales of British blueberries are up by 13% this year, despite challenging conditions for growers, according to British Berry Growers (BBG), the industry trade group. The rise was a “clear indicator of the rising consumer demand for healthier food choices and a testament to the quality of British blueberries”, it said.

13%

The rise in the sale of British blueberries this year, according to British Berry Growers

1%

The figure for strawberries over the year to date; raspberries and blackberries are down 5% and 2%



Neil Donaldson, the commercial director at Hall Hunter, the UK’s biggest blueberry grower, said demand for the “ultimate superfood” was at record levels. They are popular with all age groups, and in recent years have become a lunchbox staple for many families.

“They’re packed full of antioxidants, packed full of vitamins, and that message is slowly getting out there ... they’ve also got better [shelf] life than a strawberry or a raspberry.”

UK shoppers buy about 60,000 tonnes of blueberries each year and British growers supply about a 10th of that figure, with the rest made up from imports. Depending on the time of year, shipments arrive from eastern European countries such as Poland or, in the depths of winter, Peru or

Chile. Donaldson said: “Everyone thinks of blueberries as almost like a tropical fruit that’s grown abroad. We’re slowly educating people that we do produce blueberries.”

The UK’s biggest retailer, Tesco, wants to sell more British blueberries and is working with suppliers on a production programme to take larger volumes and guarantee a return. The UK climate has always suited the fruit, but growers are extending the growing season with different varieties that mature either earlier or later than those traditionally planted.

With a crop of about 2,500 tonnes this year, Hall Hunter, with farms in Berkshire and Surrey, is behind almost half of all UK blueberry production. It is planting a further 55 hectares (135 acres) which will

produce about 4,000 tonnes of blueberries. The purple patch was welcome news for an industry struggling to balance the books, said the BBG chair, Nick Marston.

Berry demand is seemingly “ever increasing” with the most recent figures from data firm Kantar showing the total market – including strawberries, raspberries and blackberries, plus combining imports and UK-grown supplies – hit sales of £1.9bn in the 52 weeks to 1 September, with the market up 11% in value and 5% in volume.

But figures from British growers show that while blueberry sales volumes experienced a double-digit increase, growth for the much larger strawberry market was 1%, while raspberry and blackberry sales fell back by 5% and 2%, respectively.

In July, the BBG warned that two-fifths of British growers of strawberries and raspberries could go out of business by the end of 2026 amid rising costs and poor pay from supermarkets.

“The pressure on growers is particularly acute on raspberries and blackberries,” said Marston, who added that some farms were scaling back production due to crippling labour costs – it is estimated that wages constitute two-thirds of the cost of a punnet of raspberries.

For blueberries there is a higher level of automation in the harvesting and packing process, which means a lower labour cost. Hall Hunter, for example, has a state-of-the-art harvester capable of picking 600kg of fruit an hour.

Growers are often competing with cheaper imports. Bartosz Pinkosz, operations director at The Summer Berry Company, which produces 10,000 tonnes of fruit a year, said there was scope to grow more blueberries in the UK but it required support from retailers.

“Farmers, including us, have land to farm them, but it has to be financially sustainable,” said Pinkosz, adding that it is frustrating when British blueberries are in season, between June and September, to see imports on supermarket shelves.

“It is not about making a huge profit but making sure that all costs are covered.”

Marston said: “Even at the peak of the UK season, probably half the blueberries on the shelves are still imported.”

Harry gets first birthday greeting from his brother in three years

Matthew Weaver

The Prince and Princess of Wales delivered a small peace offering in their rift with the Duke of Sussex yesterday by wishing Prince Harry happy birthday for the first time in three years.

In a post on X, the royal family shared a photo of a smiling Harry

to mark his 40th birthday complete with a cake emoji. The message said: “Wishing The Duke of Sussex a very happy 40th birthday today!”

Reposting the greeting with almost identical wording, William and Kate’s X account (pictured) said: “Wishing a Happy 40th Birthday to The Duke of Sussex!”

It is the first time the royal family has shared such a public birthday greeting to Harry since 2021, the

year the Sussexes accused unnamed royals of animosity and racism in an interview with Oprah Winfrey.

Harry was celebrating his birthday at his California home with the Duchess of Sussex and their two children, Prince Archie and Princess Lilibet, before reportedly heading away for a gathering with close friends.

Harry, who stepped down as a working royal in 2020, remains estranged from William and has a strained relationship with their father, King Charles.

In February Harry flew to the UK to see his father after the king’s cancer diagnosis. The meeting was kept to just 45 minutes and there was no



meeting with his brother. He travelled to London again in May to celebrate a decade of the Invictus Games but did not meet up with his brother or father. There was also a brief return to the UK last month for the funeral of his uncle Lord Fellowes. He reportedly had no interaction with William at the church service.

Harry continues to pursue legal action against tabloid newspapers over allegations of phone hacking and unlawful information gathering.

In July he told an ITV documentary his determination to fight the tabloids over allegations of phone hacking was a “central piece” in destroying his relationship with his family.

Germany reintroduces border checks within EU to applause from far right

Jon Henley

Europe correspondent

Germany will reintroduce temporary checks at all nine of its land borders today in a controversial move that has drawn criticism from several of its European partners but praise from the far right.

The embattled coalition government in Berlin said last week that checks already being carried out on its borders with Austria, Poland, the Czech Republic and Switzerland would be extended to France, Luxembourg, Belgium, the Netherlands and Denmark.

The decision followed a series of deadly knife attacks in which the suspects were asylum seekers, and historic successes by the far-right, anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany party (AfD) in two crunch state elections in the east of the country.

Nancy Faeser, the interior minister,

said the move would curb migration and “protect against the acute dangers posed by Islamist terrorism and serious crime,” but critics have denounced it as politically motivated and likely to be largely ineffective.

Europe’s passport-free Schengen zone, which includes 25 EU nations plus four others including Switzerland and Norway, allows free movement without border checks and is seen as one of the bloc’s major achievements as well as a critical economic asset.

Temporary checks are allowed in exceptional circumstances to avert specific threats to internal security or public policy and eight members currently impose them on selected borders, citing increased terror threats or pressure on asylum capacity.

Poland’s prime minister, Donald Tusk, was the first to openly criticise Germany’s move, calling it “unacceptable from Poland’s viewpoint” and

demanding more help from Berlin in securing the EU’s external borders rather than tighter internal controls.

Warsaw has proposed consultations with all EU member states bordering Germany to address a decision that Tusk said was a result of Germany’s “internal political situation” and could lead to “the de facto suspension of the Schengen agreement on a large scale”.

Greece’s prime minister, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, said on Thursday it would be wrong to “move to a logic of ad hoc exemptions from the Schengen agreement, with border controls that will hurt one of the fundamental achievements of the EU”.

The response, Mitsotakis said, “cannot be unilaterally scrapping Schengen”. Others, however, were more sanguine, with the Czech interior minister, Vít Rakušan, saying he did not expect much material change as checks would mostly be random.

Far-right leaders were jubilant in

‘Now Germany is doing it. When will France follow?’

Marine Le Pen
France’s far-right
National Rally



response to the news. Geert Wilders of the Dutch Freedom party (PVV) said Berlin’s decision was a “great idea” and asked when the Netherlands would follow suit, while the Hungarian prime minister, Viktor Orbán, said on X: “Welcome to the club.”

Marine Le Pen, of France’s National Rally (RN), said her party had proposed a “double – external and internal border – system” in recent elections and had been told it was not

possible. “Now Germany is doing it,” she said. “When will France follow?”

Giorgia Meloni’s far-right Brothers of Italy party has praised Berlin’s decision. Orbán’s chief of staff, Gergely Gulyás, said laxity on the EU’s external borders combined with tougher internal border checks were combining to “destroy free movement”.

The German chancellor, Olaf Scholz, whose divided three-party coalition is trailing far behind the AfD and the centre-right opposition Christian Democrats (CDU) in the polls a year before federal elections, has defended the decision.

With days to go before another critical state election in Brandenburg, which AfD is expected to win, Scholz told parliament the move was necessary and the government would “continue with it, even though it is getting difficult with our neighbours”.

It is not yet clear exactly what the impact of the increased border checks will be. Berlin has pledged to “coordinate closely with our neighbours ... and keep the impact on everyday life in the border regions as low as possible”.

The interior ministry last week insisted the measures, scheduled to last an initial six months, would be in line with existing border controls – in other words, sporadic spot checks.

Billionaire splashes down after splashing out for private spacewalk

Ian Sample

Science editor

The civilian crew on SpaceX’s Polaris Dawn mission returned to Earth yesterday after a historic five days in orbit that took them higher than anyone since Nasa’s trips to the moon more than half a century ago.

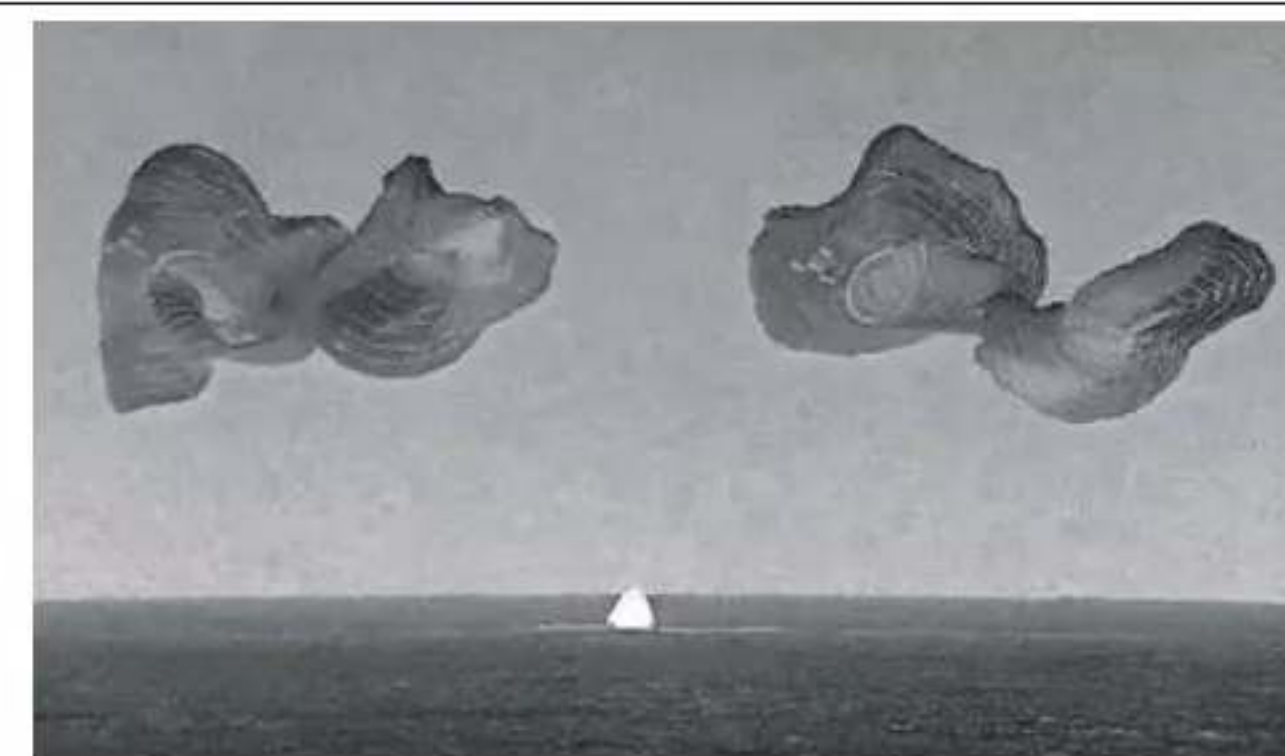
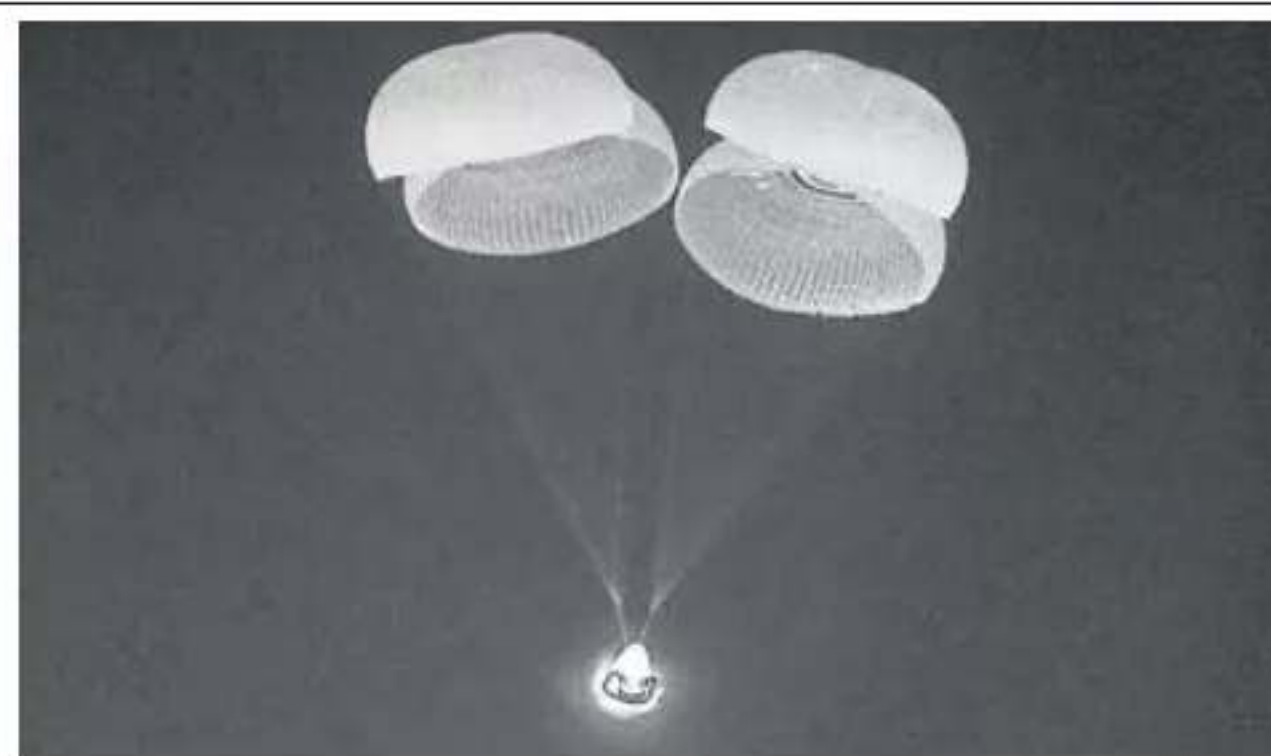
The Dragon capsule splashed down in the Gulf of Mexico near Florida’s Dry Tortugas islands shortly after 3.37am local time (8.37am BST) carrying the billionaire tech entrepreneur and mission funder Jared Isaacman, two SpaceX engineers and a former air force fighter pilot.

“We are mission complete,” Isaacman said as the capsule bobbed in the water, awaiting recovery.

The crew performed the first private spacewalk while soaring nearly 460 miles above Earth, higher than the International Space Station and the Hubble space telescope. Their spacecraft hit a peak altitude of 875 miles after Tuesday’s liftoff.

Isaacman became the 264th person to perform a spacewalk since the former Soviet Union achieved the first in 1965, and SpaceX’s Sarah Gillis became the 265th. Previously, all spacewalks had been made by professional astronauts.

Martin Barstow, a professor of astrophysics and space science at the University of Leicester, said the



▲ Clockwise from top left: Jared Isaacman, the billionaire who helped fund the mission, is greeted by SpaceX workers; parachutes deploy from the Dragon capsule as it returns to Earth; the capsule splashes down in the Gulf of Mexico; and teams of divers approach the Dragon capsule

PHOTOGRAPHS:
POLARIS PROGRAM/
AFP/GETTY

mission was a landmark in commercial space exploration and a signal that conducting activities in space was no longer the preserve of government-backed agencies.

The Dragon capsule’s hatch was open for barely half an hour during Thursday’s spacewalk. Isaacman emerged up to his waist to briefly test SpaceX’s new spacesuit, followed by Gillis, who was knee-high outside the

capsule as she flexed her arms and legs for several minutes.

Operations around the spacewalk lasted less than two hours, considerably shorter than those at the International Space Station. Most of that time was needed to depressurise the entire capsule and then restore the cabin air.

Because there is no airlock on the Dragon capsule SpaceX’s Anna

Menon and the mission’s pilot, Scott “Kidd” Poteet, remained inside and wore spacesuits throughout.

SpaceX considers the brief exercise a starting point to test spacesuit technology for future missions to Mars.

This was Isaacman’s second chartered flight with SpaceX, with two more planned under his personally financed Polaris space exploration programme, named after the north star. He paid an undisclosed sum for his first spaceflight in 2021, taking along contest winners and a paediatric cancer survivor while raising more than \$250m (£190m) for the St Jude children’s research hospital in Memphis, Tennessee.

Barstow said: “This is a real milestone in space exploration, with a commercial company demonstrating its ability to conduct human space operations beyond low Earth orbit ... It is a landmark in the development of commercial space capability. It also signals that conducting activities in space is no longer just the province of the cohort of highly trained astronauts and is becoming accessible to others who can deliver services in space without going through the traditional astronaut route.”

Isaacman, the founder and chief executive of the Shift4 credit card payment processing company, shared the cost of the Polaris Dawn mission with SpaceX but has not divulged how much he spent.

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National

7

UK has a national problem of young people addicted to ketamine – expert

Rachel Hall
Clea Skopeliti

Young people becoming addicted to ketamine is a national problem that is growing rapidly, a leading addiction psychiatrist has said.

Specialist ketamine clinics have recorded a surge over the past two years in the numbers of young people coming through their doors, many of whom have struggled to engage with mainstream treatments. NHS and private clinics have also reported significant rises.

Owen Bowden-Jones, a consultant psychiatrist and founder of the pioneering Club Drug clinic, said he had seen a definite increase in its use by young people, making the drug a national problem.

“My sense is the vast majority are using it to self-medicate for emotional distress. That would suggest to me they found a pharmacological shortcut to managing their mental health,” he said, adding that this may reflect difficulties in accessing mental health services.

The number of people seeking treatment for ketamine addiction at NHS drug and alcohol services doubled between 2019 and 2023 from 1,140 to 2,211, the most recent data shows. The proportion of young people receiving substance misuse treatment for ketamine has increased from under 1% in 2015 to 6% in 2023.

Private clinics have also reported rises. The Priory has recorded increases, while UK Addiction Treatment Centres said ketamine admission numbers had doubled

from 198 in 2020 to 397 in 2023. Rehabs UK, which works in partnership with treatment clinics, received 4,000 inquiries in 2023, with ketamine representing 30% thus far in 2024, up from 15% in 2023.

One new group of patients Bowden-Jones has observed is young people who have experienced trauma using ketamine because its dissociative quality makes it a “brilliant emotional anaesthetic” and because there is a “lack of good-quality trauma therapy available”.

This was Pagan’s experience. She started taking ketamine for fun with friends, then began using it alone “just to block everything out”. She soon found that “you have overpowering other emotions so you keep using more”. This escalated into injecting, and within a year she was severely ill, she said.

She has been left with life-changing health problems, including liver disease and nerve damage that has made it difficult to walk. “Nobody told me the amount of pain you would feel,” she said.

Bowden-Jones set up his clinic after noticing an increase in younger people whose drug addictions were not catered for by mainstream NHS services, which primarily serve older heroin and crack cocaine users.

“Young people are using different drugs to what our services are expert in,” he said. “Many young people wouldn’t dream of using heroin – it’s very clear in their minds that’s a highly dangerous, highly addictive drug to start on – and yet they’re coming to me using two to three grams of ketamine a day.”

He said drug treatment centres needed to adapt and work more closely with mental health services, reversing a structure in which they are “funded separately, and don’t communicate well”, leaving people “caught in a systemic gap”. Without this support patients become “highly distressed and vulnerable and return to ketamine”.

Ketamine addicts respond well to treatment, but rolling out specialist services is a challenge, said Dr Emily Finch, a member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists addictions executive.

There is a shortage of addiction psychiatrists and funding is “particularly low and at risk”, she said, making it difficult to innovate, partly because addiction is a Cinderella service due to “a misperception that it’s people’s fault.”



PHOTOGRAPH:
PETER NICHOLLS/GETTY

Surviving works Tracey Emin’s latest exhibition opens on Thursday at White Cube Bermondsey in London with sculpture and paintings that draw on her experience with bladder cancer, and a short film on the stoma she lives with since her surgery.

Half of melanoma patients in double immunotherapy drug trial live for 10 years

Ian Sample
Science editor

More than half of people diagnosed with advanced melanoma now survive for at least 10 years when they receive a double hit of immunotherapy drugs, a trial has found.

The combined treatment has transformed survival rates for a form of skin cancer that once had a grim prognosis, with some patients now living long enough that they die from other causes.

Fifteen years ago only one in 20 patients with advanced melanoma survived for five years, with many dying within six to nine months of the condition being confirmed.

“The definition of cure is to return someone to their normal life expectancy for their age and state of health,” said James Larkin, a consultant medical oncologist at the Royal Marsden NHS foundation trust and a professor at the Institute of Cancer Research.

“Having treated a lot of these patients over the past 10 years it seems that some are cured: they’re back to their normal lives, they’re getting on with things.”

More than 20,000 people are expected to be diagnosed with melanoma in the UK this year, a record high largely being driven by rising cases in older people. The vast

majority are preventable and caused by too much exposure to UV light.

The trial involved two drugs, ipilimumab and nivolumab, both immune checkpoint inhibitors, and 945 patients with stage 3 or 4 melanoma, where tumours were spreading. The drugs work by disabling “brakes” built into the immune system to prevent it from turning on healthy tissues. Cut the brakes and the immune system can recognise and attack the cancer cells.

Results presented at the European Society for Medical Oncology in Barcelona yesterday and published in the New England Journal of Medicine showed that the melanoma-specific survival rate for patients in the trial was higher than the overall survival rate, meaning they were starting to live long enough to die from other causes.

At 10 years, the melanoma-specific

survival rate for patients treated with both drugs was 52%.

Larkin called the results “remarkable”. Many toxic anti-cancer drugs that destroy tumour cells stop working over time, but the response to immune checkpoint inhibitors was long-lasting, he said.

The trial is the longest follow-up to date of patients receiving the drugs for advanced melanoma, giving doctors crucial information on how long the treatment remains effective, survival rates and side-effects. While some patients experienced early side-effects, no new problems arose later. Patients who stopped treatment because of side-effects still benefited from the combination therapy, as the drugs had already taken effect on their immune systems.

Lucy Davis, 47, joined the trial funded by the pharmaceutical firm Bristol Myers Squibb after being diagnosed in 2011 with stage 3 melanoma. She had surgery to remove the cancer and surrounding lymph nodes but two years later was told it had progressed to stage 4 and she had only months to live.

“Before I started the trial I was really ill. I could barely eat. I was losing weight and was in a lot of pain, but three months later I felt completely different. My appetite was back and scans showed that the treatment was working,” Davis said.

“My children were five and seven years old when I received the news that I had just months to live and they are now 16 and 18. I have been able to see them go to college, which is absolutely amazing.”

Efforts are now focused on the substantial number of patients who do not respond to the immunotherapies. It is unclear why the drugs fail and there is probably no single answer.

‘The vast majority are using it to self-medicate ... as a shortcut to managing their mental health’

Owen Bowden-Jones
Founder of Club Drug clinic



20,000

Number of people in the UK who are expected to be diagnosed with melanoma this year, a record high

52%

The melanoma-specific survival rate at 10 years for patients treated with both immunotherapy drugs

▼ Keir Starmer attends a Battle of Britain anniversary service at Westminster Abbey yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: JACK TAYLOR/REUTERS



Starmer accused of seeking to copy far right as he holds migration talks with Meloni

'It is disturbing that Starmer is seeking to learn lessons from a neo-fascist government'

Kim Johnson
Labour MP for Liverpool Riverside

Continued from page 1

have called on Starmer to avoid any more “gimmicks” following the failure of the last government to implement the Rwanda scheme.

The developments come after eight men died while trying to cross the Channel in the early hours of yesterday morning. A 10-month-old baby was among 53 people rescued off the coast of Ambleuse in northern France when their dinghy was “smashed” on to rocks.

The prime minister will head to Rome today to examine how Meloni’s government has cut the number of migrants arriving in small boats across the Mediterranean by almost two-thirds in the past year, from 118,000 to 44,500.

Meloni has focused on financial deals with North African countries such as Tunisia and Libya to improve border security so they can stop boats

setting off. This autumn she will open a holding centre in Albania, where asylum seekers picked up by Italian rescue ships will be taken while their asylum applications are processed.

Kim Johnson, a Labour MP for Liverpool Riverside and a former member of the home affairs select committee, said the agenda for the bilateral meeting was “disturbing”. She said: “Meloni’s approach to Albanian migration has been described as a ‘model of mismanagement and a blueprint for abuse’ by Human Rights Watch. It is disturbing that Starmer is seeking to learn lessons from a neo-fascist government ... Higher security and draconian deportation measures fail to dissuade desperate people from seeking asylum and risk significant human rights violations.”

A second Labour MP said “cosying up to Meloni is shameful ... she is all about dehumanising and mistreating people fleeing war and persecution.”

Lammy told the BBC’s Sunday With Laura Kuenssberg programme that Starmer will talk to Meloni about her efforts to tackle irregular migration “and the work they have done, particularly, with Albania”.

He said: “They have a comprehensive scheme with Albania understanding that [the] Albania route, as well as the Channel and the southern Mediterranean, are routes

that migrants use. So ... because it has reduced the numbers, we are interested in discussing with Italy the schemes they have developed, not just with Albania.” But in a sign of government confusion over the issue, a Home Office source said that Lammy’s claim that the government could send people to a third country such as Albania was not government policy.

“It is not something we are working on,” the source said, adding that Italy’s plan to process 3,000 asylum seekers in Albania had not reduced the levels of irregular migration because it had not yet begun processing asylum seekers there.

Whitehall is keen to examine Italy’s tough enforcement against people-smuggling gangs, plans to open a hub in Sarajevo to coordinate enforcement against human trafficking, and €5.5bn (£4.7bn) of funding of pilot projects across Africa.

Last night the police chief who

oversaw the UK’s enforcement of lockdown laws during the Covid-19 pandemic was appointed the head of the government’s new border security command. Martin Hewitt, the former chairman of the National Police Chiefs’ Council, will be in charge of co-ordinating Starmer’s plans to curb small boat crossings.

Steve Valdez-Symonds, Amnesty International UK’s refugee and migrant rights director, said there “should be no question of the UK doing deals to offload its responsibilities on to other countries.”

Jon Featonby, of the Refugee Council, said such deals were “incredibly expensive” and had resulted in people being trapped in countries where they faced the risk of torture, murder, rape and imprisonment.

One of Starmer’s first acts in office was to scrap the previous government’s plans to send asylum seekers to Rwanda, promising to focus on combating people-smuggling gangs.

Provisional Home Office figures show 801 people crossed the Channel to England on Saturday, the second highest daily total so far this year.

Commenting on whether Starmer believes Italy’s strategy alone could help Britain reduce illegal immigration, his spokesperson said: “Our countries share the same challenge around irregular migration, and the PM is very clear that to tackle what is an international challenge we have to have international solutions.”



▲ Italy’s PM Giorgia Meloni. Starmer is accused of ‘cosying up’ to her

▼ French police at Ambleteuse beach, where eight people died trying to cross the Channel

PHOTOGRAPH: GONZALO FUENTES/REUTERS



Channel crossings

Eight people die when small boat sinks off French coast

Rajeev Syal
Diane Taylor

Eight people died trying to cross the Channel from France to England early yesterday, French regional authorities said.

The French maritime prefecture said 59 people were onboard the boat, which got into difficulty off the coast of France, and 51 of them were rescued. An investigation has been opened by the Boulogne-sur-Mer public prosecutor's office.

A 10-month-old baby was among those taken to hospital with suspected hypothermia after the boat ran aground near Ambleteuse at about 1.15am. All those who died were adult men.

Responding to reports of the deaths, the foreign secretary, David Lammy, said: "It's awful. It's a further loss of life."

He told the BBC's Sunday With Laura Kuenssberg programme he had been to the National Crime Agency and seen the "awful sort of rubber dinghies that people are coming across the Channel with, many of them, of course, not able to make it in these contraptions".

Jacques Billant, the prefect of the Pas-de-Calais region, said the boat was "clearly torn on the rocks". Those onboard included people from Eritrea, Sudan, Afghanistan and Egypt. Some survivors were taken to hospitals in Calais and Boulogne.

A government spokesperson said French authorities were conducting an investigation. "We can confirm there has been an incident in the Channel involving a small

boat in French waters," the spokesperson said. "French authorities are leading the response and investigation. We will not be commenting further at this stage."

The British Red Cross said the deaths were "tragic" and called for more safe crossing routes for refugees. Its director for refugee support, Alex Fraser, said: "Nobody risks their life travelling across the Channel in a small boat unless they feel they have no other choice. More safe routes are urgently needed to help prevent people from taking dangerous journeys to reach the UK."

More than 30 people have died in Channel crossings this year and ministers are braced for more fatal crossings in the coming weeks. September has become one of the busiest months for irregular crossings over the last few years.

Maritime authorities said on Saturday there had been numerous attempts to make the crossing in small boats in recent days, with 200 people rescued in 24 hours over Friday and Saturday alone.

At least 12 people died off the northern French coast when their boat carrying dozens of people capsized earlier this month. It was the deadliest such disaster this year, and 25 people had already died on crossings, up from 12 in 2023.

The French and UK governments have sought for years to stop the flow of people who pay smugglers thousands of euros for the passage to England from France on small boats. More than 22,000 have arrived in England by crossing the Channel since the beginning of this year, according to British officials.



◀ The damaged boat near the beach at Ambleteuse yesterday. The Boulogne-sur-Mer public prosecutor's office has opened an investigation

PHOTOGRAPH: BERNARD BARRON/AFP/GETTY

Transparency

Lammy calls buying outfits with donor funds 'routine'

Matthew Weaver

The foreign secretary, David Lammy, has suggested it is routine for political donors to pay for outfits for prime ministers and their spouses in a row over the late declaration of funds for a personal shopper and clothes for Keir Starmer's wife, Victoria.

The payments, from the Labour donor Waheed Alli, which were used to buy clothing for Victoria Starmer, were not initially declared in the register of MPs' interests, the Sunday Times reported. The gift was registered late when Starmer approached parliamentary authorities on Tuesday. Lammy said the donations were accepted so the Labour leader and his wife could "look their best".

Speaking on the BBC's Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg, Lammy noted the generous expense allowance available to US presidents. He said: "I've just come back from the United States, where US presidents and first ladies have a huge budget paid for by the taxpayer so that they look their best on behalf of the US people. We don't have that system over here."

The US president receives a salary of about \$400,000 (£305,000) and a \$50,000 expense allowance, though there is no specific clothing budget. The Tories demanded a full investigation into the Starmers' links with Lord Alli.

Lammy said Starmer's actions had been transparent. He said: "The prime minister did declare funds that he received from Lord Alli. He's then



▲ Keir Starmer and his wife Victoria spent Alli's payments on her clothes

gone back to the parliamentary commissioner to further check details on some of those funds that have made their way to his wife.

"So he has done that, and he is seeking to comply with the rules. So this is not an issue of transparency. He is attempting to be transparent."

Lammy added: "The truth is that successive prime ministers, unless you're a billionaire like the last one, do rely on donations, political donations, so they can look their best, both in the hope of representing the country, if you're in the opposition, or indeed as prime minister."

Starmer had a high-profile legal career before entering politics. Lammy said he was "not suggesting the prime minister is broke", but that "successive prime ministers want to look their best - and their partners - for the country. That is what lies behind this."

The Sunday Times reported that the donations covered the cost of a personal shopper, clothes and alterations for Lady Starmer before and after Labour's election win in July.

MPs are required to register gifts and donations within 28 days.



▲ David Lammy said leaders used funding so they can 'look their best'

Collective

Corbyn addresses meeting for new party of left

Jessica Elgot
Deputy political editor

Jeremy Corbyn has addressed a meeting for a new leftwing political party named Collective, attended by the former Unite general secretary Len McCluskey and a number of former independent candidates.

Key figures in the group said they hoped the party would act as an incubator for future leaders who could replace Corbyn as a figurehead of the left, and aim to contest seats at the next general election.

At the meeting yesterday, where Corbyn gave the opening speech, founders said they would begin drawing up democratic structures for a new party to launch. A source close to Corbyn said his attendance was not an endorsement, but to "listen to and share a variety of views about the way forward for the left".

Organisers said they hoped that forming a new party would be a way of garnering new support. "There will be a new left party that will contest the next election and hopefully be a meaningful counterweight to Reform and the rightwing drift of the Labour party," one said.

Others who attended the meeting included the former North of Tyne mayor Jamie Driscoll, the film director Ken Loach, Andrew Feinstein, who stood against Keir Starmer in his Holborn and St Pancras constituency, and Corbyn's former chief of staff Karie Murphy.

It is understood not all attendees are in favour of a new leftwing party, including Feinstein and Driscoll. It also may not ultimately involve the four independent candidates who won seats at the last general election on a pro-Palestinian platform and who have subsequently formed a parliamentary alliance with Corbyn.

Conservatives

Cleverly does not rule out future Hester donations

Nadeem Badshah

The Conservative party leadership candidate James Cleverly yesterday declined to rule out accepting future donations from Frank Hester, the businessman who said Diane Abbott made him "want to hate all black women".

A Guardian investigation revealed in March that Hester had told colleagues in a meeting he did not hate all black women but seeing Abbott on TV meant "you just want to hate all black women because she's there". He also said the Labour MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington "should be shot".

Cleverly was repeatedly asked on the BBC's Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg programme if his vow to "run a different Tory party" and be a "different kind of leader" meant he would turn down further donations from the healthcare technology entrepreneur.

Cleverly responded: "He's apologised. He admitted that what he said was completely wrong. The reason he donated to the Conservative party's general election campaign was to protect the British people from the Labour government that we now see."

"I've not had any discussions with Frank Hester about the future. What he said was totally unacceptable - he's apologised for that. He has been a donor to the [Conservative] party. Whether he is again in the future, I don't know."

Hester has given the Tories £15m since 2023, including the biggest donation the party received during the general election campaign - more than £5m through his business, the Phoenix Partnership, in May.

In response to Cleverly's comments, a Labour spokesperson said: "James Cleverly had the opportunity to rule out taking further donations from a man who has made abhorrent, racist remarks, and refused."

They added: "All the Tory leadership candidates claim to want to change the Conservative party, but the truth is they are too weak to do it."

"If they were serious about ending the chaos and decline at the heart of the Tories, the leadership candidates would promise to never accept donations from Frank Hester ever again."



▲ Frank Hester has donated £15m to the Conservative party since 2023

Muslim body calls on Labour to stop freezing it out of talks

Daniel Boffey
Chief reporter

The head of the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB) has called for an explanation and a review of the government's policy of non-engagement with the body after her appeals for contact during the summer riots were ignored.

Zara Mohammed, who was elected more than three years ago as the MCB's youngest and first female secretary general, said there had been a "quite shocking" lack of contact with the new government at a time when mobs were targeting Muslims and



mosques. The MCB had been "heavily engaged" with Labour's shadow cabinet when the party was in opposition, including a meeting in 2021 between Mohammed and Keir Starmer where they discussed "the importance of engaging with Muslim communities", she said.

Downing Street then ignored attempts to discuss the dangers being posed to Muslim people during the riots, Mohammed said.

Mohammed, 33, whose tenure as MCB leader will end in January, said she hoped ministers would now review the government's "baffling" approach to the UK's largest Muslim umbrella group, which has more

than 500 affiliated members including mosques, schools and charities.

She said: "There's been no official communication from government since the election, and when the riots happened, I guess that's where we would have expected [it]. We appreciated that, with any new government, they've got to settle in."

"But I think what was really disappointing, and perhaps for many in the Muslim community, quite shocking, was no formal or meaningful engagement with the Muslim Council of Britain during a time when mosques and Muslims were being targeted by the far right in a terrifying way."

The Conservative government had

◀ *The MCB's Zara Mohammed said the government had ignored her appeals for contact during the riots*
PHOTOGRAPH: MURDO MACLEOD/THE GUARDIAN

a policy of non-engagement with the MCB and in a statement to parliament on 1 August the Labour communities minister, Alex Norris, disclosed that there had "been no change to [government] policy and there are no plans for ministers to meet with the Muslim Council of Britain".

The new government has not expanded on its approach but the reason given to parliament by Rishi Sunak's administration for its policy of non-engagement was that "previous MCB leaders have taken positions that contradict our fundamental values and these have not been explicitly retracted".

That statement was a reference to a row dating back to 2009 when the then MCB deputy secretary general, Daud Abdullah, signed a document known as the Istanbul declaration, which advocated attacks on the Royal Navy if it tried to stop arms for Hamas being smuggled into Gaza.

The then Labour government said it would have nothing more to do with the MCB unless Abdullah stepped down. He did resign and the MCB said the views expressed did not represent those of the body, leading to a re-engagement in the last year of Gordon Brown's government.

Liberal Democrat ministers in the coalition government elected in 2010 also engaged with the MCB. Penny Mordaunt, when she was the Conservative paymaster general, had a meeting with Mohammed in 2021 but was heavily criticised in parts of the media, including the Daily Mail.

Mohammed said the MCB had since been "locked out", although she added that policy had not been consistent, with the body providing a reference service for the appointment of Muslim chaplains by the Ministry of Defence until it was highlighted in a Daily Telegraph article last year.

Last week, the deputy prime minister, Angela Rayner, told the Commons that the government was "actively considering" its approach to tackling Islamophobia.

Mohammed said she was "optimistic" that the government would "get its act together". She said: "I think what I'm hopeful of is that the government will review the former position and will look at offering a position of clarity as to why [they are not engaging]."

A spokesperson for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, said: "The government engages regularly with faith communities. During the recent disorder, the minister for faith spoke to representatives of Muslim communities through numerous roundtables and visits."

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State schools must include speaking as crucial life skill, says Eton teacher

Sally Weale

Education correspondent

State schools in England should set up debating clubs and train teachers in the art of encouraging classroom discussions in order to improve children's oracy and help develop speaking skills for life, a senior leader at Eton college has said.

While private schools have greater resources to work on enrichment and life skills outside the demands of the GCSE and A-level curricula, teachers in state schools, who often work with disadvantaged children with additional needs, say they do not have sufficient time or training to do so.

The government has said it wants to embed speaking skills in all schools as an educational priority and a new focus on oracy is expected to form part of the forthcoming curriculum and assessment review.

Life Lessons 2024, a report by the Sutton Trust shared exclusively with the Guardian, found 96% of teachers think life skills are at least as important as formal academic qualifications in determining how well young people do in adulthood, while 51% think they are more important.

However, half of state school teachers say they have neither the time nor training, and state school teachers are twice as likely to say their school does not provide good opportunities for pupils to develop these non-academic skills (one in five against one in 10).

Eton college, where annual fees will increase from £52,749 to about £63,000 when the government adds VAT in January, encourages the use of oracy at all times. Over the centuries the Berkshire school has educated 20 prime ministers, for whom the art of public speaking has been paramount. Jonathan Noakes, Eton's director of teaching and learning, quoted in the Sutton Trust report, said there are things that Eton does that could not be replicated in every state school.

Eton has far smaller class sizes and most boys are already confident speakers when they arrive.

"We teach through discussion," Noakes said. "It is not OK for a boy at Eton not to speak in lessons - and that makes a big difference. We also specifically train teachers to run lessons as discussions. In a teacher's first year at the school we run coaching days for them throughout the year, and one of those looks at how best to generate discussions in class."

There are also points in a child's time at Eton where the focus is specifically on oracy. For example, all year 9 pupils (aged 13-14) are obliged to study the rudiments of rhetoric, give a speech and take part in a debate as part of their English studies.

"We want to make sure right at the beginning that they have these skills," Noakes said. "But we also teach how to do a presentation more than once, and in more than one subject. Overall, these skills are practised again and again throughout the school."

Eton also has a debating society and a model United Nations (MUN) that discusses UN resolutions, but neither of those are compulsory.

While many state schools already work effectively on developing children's skills in using spoken language, Noakes acknowledges the additional challenges. "I've seen in state schools, where classes are 30 students or more, that it can be much more challenging to get everyone involved in discussions," he said.

At Eton, there are up to 22 pupils per class in year 9, while sixth form classes have eight to 12 pupils.

Noakes added: "State schools I've worked with, for example the London Academy of Excellence [a partner school of Eton] serve academically a very similar ability group of students to Eton, and they have chosen to have a specific oracy programme."

"I think for most state schools, because their context is different, it makes sense to consider this approach, alongside specific training for teachers to encourage discussions in lessons. Debate clubs in state schools could, I think, also be an excellent way to help students to learn these skills."

The Sutton Trust survey attracted responses from almost 8,000 teachers. It found that 53% of private schools have a debating club compared with 18% of state schools. More than a third (37%) of senior leaders say oracy is embedded in some lessons, while less than a third (31%) say this is the case for all lessons.

Sir Peter Lampl, founder of the Sutton Trust, said: "The ability to express ideas and thoughts confidently and articulately is essential for young people to advocate for themselves in university and job applications."



Fashion week Big and bold tributes to trailblazing female artists

Jess Cartner-Morley

On the 16th floor of a Brutalist office block, the actor Joely Richardson chatted in the front row at the Roksanda London fashion week show, her salmon pink two-piece accessorised with kingfisher tights and dramatic hand gestures.

The poetic extravagance of the clothes she was there to see - glowing clouds of sunflower organza, lavishly draped tangerine silks - was matched by the skyline, which peacocked its beauty



through the glass walls. The colours were strong, the vibe modern and abstract, the furry shoes deliberately challenging.

A few hours later Emilia Wickstead, a great favourite of the Princess of Wales, welcomed guests to the Royal Geographical Society with liveried waiters bearing piles of peeled tangerines on silver trays.

Oil paintings of admirals and a bust of the Victorian explorer Lady Jane Franklin loomed over the wooden galleries, a catwalk



◀ The subversive 'girliness' and youthful energy of the JW Anderson collection meant tiny dresses with big attitude

PHOTOGRAPH: FRANCISCO GOMEZ DE VILLABOA/WWD/GETTY



◀ Clouds of organza, lavishly draped silks and furry shoes created a sense of poetic extravagance at Roksanda

PHOTOGRAPHS: GIOVANNI GIANNONI/WWD/GETTY

for the day for the demure-with-a-twist clothes Wickstead is famed for: a sugar-pink ballerina-length strapless cocktail dress, courtly tailoring in baby blue.

The through line of two very different London fashion week events was female fashion designers paying tribute to the female artists who inspire them.

Before her show Roksanda Ilinčić, whose clothes take her first name, talked about the conceptual artist Agnes Denes, prophetic in the urgent environmental messages in her work of 40 years ago. Wickstead said she had "fallen in love" with Gisèle Freund, a photojournalist and portrait photographer who captured Simone de Beauvoir and Eva Perón.

Freund "believed that photography suited the feminine mentality because women are excellent observers of human nature", Wickstead said. Designing clothes, too, could be a form of portraiture. "I make clothes for getting dressed up, so I'm really interested in how clothes can create a public persona for women."

Meanwhile, backstage after his show at Old Billingsgate fish market, JW Anderson described the look as "girly". Not an obvious label for these hard-edged silhouettes and clompy flat shoes. Or for the jokey trompe l'oeil dress-that-thinks-it's-a-hoody or the words from Art, Clive Bell's 1914 essay about design, used as a print.

Anderson was picking up on the way in which girliness has taken on a subversive slant among a new generation who have reclaimed it to stand for youthful energy. The designer said he was thinking of his sister, and the gang of friends she went out with. "There's this prettiness, but there's also a toughness to them. It's just sort of great. There is a lot of independence, and a sense of ownership when they all come together and go on a night out."

On the catwalk, that meant tiny dresses with big attitude. Sweater dresses with supersized loops looked to have been knitted on giant needles. The outline of a prima ballerina's tutu, with its gravity-defying Swan Lake skirt, came in stiff leather.

'We teach through discussion. It is not OK for a boy at Eton not to speak in lessons - that makes a big difference'

Jonathan Noakes
Eton college



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Fewer than one in five are 'hard nimbys' opposed to housebuilding, poll suggests

Kiran Stacey

Political correspondent

Fewer than one in five voters are "hard nimbys" who are opposed to local housebuilding under almost any circumstances, according to polling by YouGov, a welcome sign for the government as it aims to build 1.5m homes this parliament.

An MRP model based on a survey of 12,000 people showed that between 15% and 20% of voters would almost never support housing developments near them, with the rest willing to do so if certain conditions were met.

The findings strengthen the case for planning reform, which ministers say is needed to override the objections of a vocal minority.

Jack Shaw, a senior adviser at Labour Together, said: "Although the voices against housebuilding are vocal, our analysis is clear – only a small proportion of voters are wholly hostile to housebuilding. While the specific details of local housebuilding projects will be contested, principled support for housebuilding should give the government confidence to pursue a laser-like focus on building 1.5m homes over the parliament."

The prime minister, Keir Starmer, has put housebuilding at the heart of his growth agenda, promising to rip up the planning system in an effort to match the previous government's target of building 300,000 new homes a year – a target that was never met.

Starmer has promised to get new

developments going even if it means building on green belt land, attracting anger from senior Conservatives and concern among some in Labour about the impact on their local support.

Labour has already reintroduced compulsory housebuilding targets for local authorities and is planning a series of other measures, including making it easier for public bodies to issue compulsory purchase orders and simplifying the planning process.

Some newly elected Labour MPs

have formed pro-housebuilding groups within parliament in an attempt to ensure the prime minister sticks to his agenda in the face of local opposition.

The Starmerite thinktank Labour Together commissioned the MRP and a separate poll of 2,000 people, both by YouGov. The MRP found the one condition that made the biggest difference to local support for housebuilding was whether there would be sufficient provision of GPs and other health services.

The 2,000-person poll, which asked slightly different questions, found that the argument most people found persuasive in favour of new developments was that young people needed help getting on the housing ladder. This was particularly

true of voters who switched from the Conservatives to Labour at the last election, 39% of whom said this was the most convincing argument.

The poll also identified which groups were the most opposed to housebuilding near them. It found nimbyism depended heavily on age, with 83% of people aged 18-24 saying they were persuaded by at least one argument in favour of new housing compared with just 52% of those aged 65 and over. Scottish people were less likely to be nimbys, the poll found, along with those in London. The most likely to oppose local development were those living in other parts of the south of England. Leave voters were roughly twice as likely to be nimbys as those who voted Remain.

But if a minority of voters were "hard nimbys", almost none were "hard yimbys" – supportive of local housebuilding in almost any circumstance. YouGov found between 1% and 5% of voters could be classified in this way, suggesting those pushing for new developments would have to work hard to persuade local communities of their benefits.

Saying yes Labour's young MPs backing new projects

**Jessica Elgot
Pamela Duncan**

On the Sunday night of Labour conference, one rally is expected to attract the biggest crowd. Its theme is a subject that was once deemed one of the most difficult in politics – yimbyism.

Yimby stands for "yes in my back yard" – a play on the traditional nimbys. It is a campaign for more housebuilding, more turbines, more infrastructure, even on formerly spaces in the green belt.

For many of the most ambitious of the new cohort of Labour MPs, this is the fashionable campaign of the moment, not for economic growth but as a social justice movement – and one that many millennials entering parliament hope to stake their careers on.

That is also in part down to the striking relative youth of the Labour MPs. Nine of them are under 30 and preliminary data based on the ages, where available, of the 2024 cohort shows the average age is 43.

Yimbyism is a radical departure from the politics of the last parliament, where 107 Tory MPs on the Planning Concern Group successfully forced Michael Gove to abandon all mandatory housebuilding targets – though



◀ A housing development in Bradford. One Labour MP declared: "The yimby moment has come"

PHOTOGRAPH: CHRISTOPHER FURLONG/GETTY

lack of supply. Labour yimbys say this has been disproved because house prices remained high as interest rates increased.

With a new cohort of MPs preaching the gospel of yimbyism with such fervour, there is already pressure on the government to go further and faster. For MPs on the left of the party, there is also the deep concern that social housing is far less of a priority.

The yimby groups are well organised. Some of the most ambitious members of the new intake are now part of two influential caucuses on housebuilding. The first is the 50-strong Labour Growth group, which has ties to the influential Labour Together thinktank and is fronted by the MPs Josh Simons, the former Labour Together director, Lucy Rigby, a former solicitor, and Torsten Bell, the former chief executive of the Resolution Foundation thinktank.

The other is Labour Yimby – a grassroots group started by activists which drew a crowd for its first parliamentary reception and is backed by some of the most vociferous housing campaigners from the new intake: Milton Keynes North's Chris Curtis, Chipping Barnet's Dan Tomlinson and Earley and Woodley's Yuan Yang. All three won Tory-held seats where housing was explicitly on the ballot paper – against incumbents who ran on an anti-housing platform.

It is also a personal issue for a huge number of MPs. Curtis, 30, is yet to be able to buy his own home. "For too long, politicians have ducked the tough decisions on housebuilding because they believe it will deliver short-term political gain," he said. "But in the long term it has made us all worse off, pushed people into poverty and made it too tough for the next generation to get on the housing ladder."

there are a minority of Tory yimbys waging that war within their party.

But for Labour in government it is not just a dividing line with the Tories but also what they see as their most powerful attack on the new electoral threat from the Greens. Political strategists plan to paint the Greens as local blockers to a series of projects from electricity pylons to affordable housing.

"Yes, this is a Tory dividing line, but where it is much more interesting is on the left," one senior government source said. "It makes us the serious player, we are the only party who can do this."

"The yimby moment has come," one MP declared, describing a Starmer-loyalist army of men and women in their 30s and 40s who have been at the sharp end of the housing crisis from rising rents and punishing mortgages. There is a strong feeling that housing was one issue on which the Blair and Brown governments did not deliver.

Inside Labour, it is not a left-right divide, but some of its champions are prepared for it to mean internal party conflict between those who are radicalised on the housing crisis and more nervous colleagues in rural or suburban seats, won for the first time by Labour, who might be tempted to retreat into nimbyism to keep their seats.

Yimbyism is a highly convenient cause for No 10 – which has put planning reform at the centre of the government's growth agenda



▲ Yuan Yang is one of Labour's new intake who campaigned on housing

– and one which has some fervent backers in cabinet.

Angela Rayner's plans for planning reform explicitly tackle that most totemic of planning issues – the green belt – in guidelines saying that councils lacking enough brownfield sites will be expected to offer untouched plots for construction. Ed Miliband, the "king yimby", has already had heated exchanges with the Green co-leader Adrian Ramsay for his objections to electricity pylons.

Starmer is betting the house on planning changes delivering growth to improve public services – claiming every 100,000 homes built adds approximately 1% to GDP.

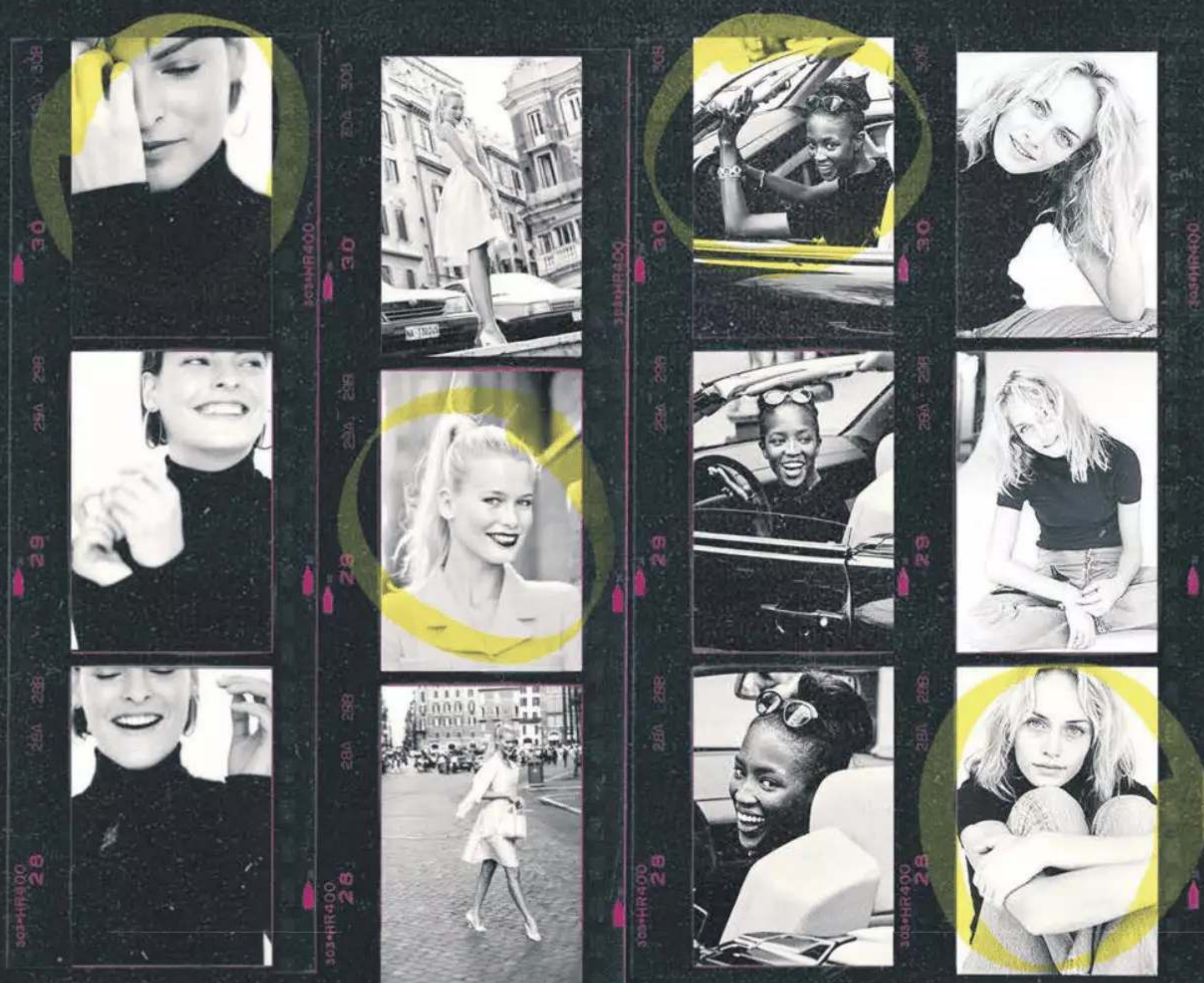
Experts still differ on whether it would lead to lower energy bills or house prices, with Ian Mulheirn, the Tony Blair Institute's executive director for UK policy and chief economist, arguing that the housing crisis has mainly been caused by low interest rates, not



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▼ A lithograph by Augustus Butler showing the Crystal Palace in its original site in Hyde Park in 1851-52

PHOTOGRAPH: SSPL/GETTY IMAGES



Nuts and bolts solution found to speed of building Crystal Palace

Donna Ferguson

It was built at unprecedented speed to exhibit the greatest treasures and manufacturing achievements of the British empire to the world. Now, the mystery of how the Victorians managed to erect the Crystal Palace so quickly in 1851 has been solved.

Experts have discovered the answer lies in the first known use of standardised nuts and bolts in construction – a humble engineering innovation that would power the British empire and revolutionise the industrial world.

The iron and glass structure of the Crystal Palace, measuring a colossal 92,000 sq metres, was built in just 190 days, to house the 14,000 exhibitors taking part in the “Great

Exhibition of the Works of Industry of All Nations”, in Hyde Park in London.

Newly analysed evidence suggests the building could not have been built without advanced technology for its day: interchangeable nuts and bolts made on machines to match one standardised size across the industry.

Before this, skilled craftsmen would typically make each individual nut and bolt bespoke. Since no two screws were necessarily alike, it was almost impossible to replace one that got lost or broken, ensuring big construction projects relied primarily on bricks and mortar.

Prof John Gardner of Anglia Ruskin University said: “The Crystal Palace was the biggest building ever constructed in Britain, at that time. It had to be built cheaply and it had to be built in 190 days – which is still pretty quick, even today.”

In the 1850s, such speed was remarkable, he said. “It was unprecedented, and my question was: how on earth did they manage it?”

About 30,000 nuts and bolts connected the 3,300 cast iron columns of the palace, which was relocated to south London in 1852 and destroyed in a fire in 1936. “It was a brand new departure from traditional materials and methods,” said Gardner.

Constructing a building like this seemed an impossible feat to him if

A fitting answer to the mystery



every nut had to be mated to a specific bolt. He approached the Crystal Palace Museum to get hold of some of the original nuts and bolts.

Gardner measured the screws and fasteners he was sent and discovered they were all standardised. “They were using a standard that had been suggested by Joseph Whitworth 10 years before, in 1841, but wasn’t adopted as a British standard until 1905,” he said. “That was an absolutely groundbreaking decision by Fox Henderson [the construction firm], because it meant you could have a nut made in one workshop and a bolt made in another – and they could fit together.”

After the Crystal Palace, more workshops began to adopt the Whitworth standard and it was quickly picked up by factories. Soon, engineers began using interchangeable screws which met the standard to mass produce steam engines for trains, and for gunboats in the Crimean war.

Said Gardner: “It becomes possible to build things more efficiently, more cheaply and more quickly – and the construction of Crystal Palace showed that, right at the beginning.”

Planning vote could put end to Loch Lomond resort proposal

Nadeem Badshah

If Flamingo Land’s proposal to build on the banks of Loch Lomond is rejected in a vote today, that should spell the end of the plan, the Scottish Greens have said.

The Yorkshire-based theme park owner has applied for planning permission to build Lomond Banks, a “holiday village” consisting of two

hotels, more than 100 self-catering lodges, a water park, pool, spa, monorail and other amenities.

The Scottish Greens have led a campaign against the project on the southern shore of the loch at Balloch, which is due to be decided on by the Loch Lomond and Trossachs national park authority today.

The party said that if the authority voted to reject the plan – the second time Lomond Banks has been unsuccessful in the past five years – it

should “mark the end” of attempts to build the development.

Ross Greer, a Scottish Green party MSP, said: “For Flamingo Land to scar [Loch Lomond] with this garish resort would be the worst kind of cultural and environmental vandalism.”

He added: “It is staggering that Flamingo Land has pushed things this far. Over 150,000 people and many respected organisations have made clear that their daft plans are not welcome ... I hope that at long last today will mark the end of the road for Flamingo Land and a destructive proposal that Loch Lomond neither wants or needs.”

In 2018 the company behind the park, Flamingo Land Limited,

submitted proposals for a development at Loch Lomond which included a hotel, craft brewery and leisure centre, which was met with strong opposition. In 2019 it withdrew the plans, but returned in 2020 with an updated £40m proposal.

A decision on the project will be made at a public meeting at Lomond parish church.

Jim Paterson, the development director for Lomond Banks, said: “We have been deeply encouraged by the number of supporters who have contacted us ahead of today’s meeting.

“We hope for a fair hearing where our proposals will be considered on the facts presented and not the false information that has been spread.”

Universal credit sanctions data reveals ‘stark’ ethnic minority disparities

Patrick Butler

Social policy editor

Black and minority ethnic benefit claimants are disproportionately likely to be hit with universal credit sanctions – financial penalties typically running into hundreds of pounds – according to official statistics unveiled for the first time.

Black universal credit claimants were 58% more likely to be sanctioned than white claimants, mixed ethnic groups were 72% more likely and Asians 5% more likely, according to figures published by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

Sanctions have long been controversial, used by ministers to signal crackdowns on alleged job shirkers, and notorious for subjecting those sanctioned to extreme hardship.

Timi Okuwa, the chief executive of the civil rights charity Black Equity Organisation, said: “These figures confirm what many have long suspected – that the welfare system disproportionately penalises black and ethnic minority communities.”

Campaigners stopped short of claiming that the disparities showed evidence of structural racism but called on ministers to guarantee that minority ethnic claimants would be treated fairly by the system.

Caroline Selman of the Public Law Project charity, which analysed the statistics, said: “The DWP needs to assess any potential for discrimination ... so that it can be rooted out.”

Sanctions are imposed when claimants are deemed to have failed to comply with benefit rules, such as refusing a job offer. Penalties vary, with benefits being stopped for between a few days and six months.

An equality impact assessment of universal credit in 2011 highlighted the risk that minority ethnic claimants would be disproportionately affected by sanctions. Until now, however, the DWP has not considered the level of ethnicity data available to be robust enough for publication.

The data covers the year to the end of April, when for the first time the number of claimants reporting their ethnicity rose above 70% – the baseline needed to underpin any analysis.

The DWP said it planned to publish its own detailed analysis this year “to determine the causes of differences in imposed sanctions across different demographics”.

However, David Webster of Glasgow University, an expert on benefit sanctions, said the statistics, while limited, revealed “stark” ethnic disparities. They “do not necessarily indicate racial discrimination or structural racism”, he said, “but their scale is cause for concern”. The DWP must justify them, he added.

There are about 7 million universal credit claimants in the UK. Nearly 440,000 were sanctioned in 2023-24.

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Lords call for public inquiries to be shortened in major overhaul

Haroon Siddique

Legal affairs correspondent

Public inquiries should be shortened and the progress of their recommendations tracked, according to a House of Lords committee, which says a major overhaul is required to restore public confidence among victims and survivors.

The committee's report, published in the wake of the Grenfell Tower public inquiry, which took almost seven years, warns there is a perception that inquiries are frequently "too long and expensive", undermining their credibility and prolonging trauma for those affected.

It suggests public trust would be boosted if ministers set an indicative deadline for each inquiry, with permission required to extend it, and the creation of a parliamentary public inquiries committee to monitor compliance with recommendations.

Failure to act on recommendations can add insult to injury "as it risks the recurrence of a disaster and undermines the whole purpose of holding

an inquiry in the first place", it says.

The committee heard evidence that, had the recommendations from the inquiry into deaths at the Bristol Royal Infirmary in 2001 been implemented, then the patient deaths investigated by the Mid-Staffordshire hospitals inquiry in 2013 might have been less likely to occur.

Similarly, the Grenfell report said that tragedy might have been prevented had changes recommended by the 2013 inquest into the Lakanal House fire been made.

Lord Norton, the chair of the Lords statutory inquiries committee, whose report is published today, said: "You've got this mismatch in public expectation, because something happens, people demand a public inquiry, an inquiry's set up, expectations are built up, it comes up with recommendations but the inquiry reports and the moment it reports it ceases to exist and then what happens next?"

"The danger is public trust is built up only to be dashed if nothing happens to the recommendations."

He said trust could also be

undermined if inquiries took too long. "The danger is an inquiry may be seen as kicking an issue into the long grass."

The report says 18 inquiries have been taking place in the UK this year. The Grenfell inquiry cost £173m and some have expressed concerns that it delayed the criminal investigations. The committee was told that the protracted nature of some inquiries led to "people dying during the process, families feeling justice was delayed and other similar incidents happening before the inquiry reports".

The report says delays and costs could also be minimised by better

'The danger is trust is built up only to be dashed if nothing happens to the recommendations'

Lord Norton

Lords committee chair

sharing of best practice. It states the committee could help prevent future disasters by identifying systemic policy failures across different inquiries and help fulfil the Grenfell inquiry's call for a "publicly accessible record of recommendations made by select committees, coroners and public inquiries together with a description of the steps taken in response".

While the report by the Lords committee calls for lessons to be learned from past inquiries "to make inquiries as effective, cost-efficient and trusted as possible", it also cautions against a one-size fits all approach.

It says that, despite the power of statutory inquiries to compel witness to give evidence, it heard evidence that non-statutory inquiries have benefits including their speed and cost, the flexibility for families to ask questions directly - as opposed to through lawyers - and that they can make witnesses feel more able to give frank and open evidence. As such, the committee advises that neither type of inquiry is inherently superior.

It also urges ministers to be more open to appointing chairs who are not judges, or a panel, to encourage more subject-area expertise.

A government spokesperson said: "We remain absolutely committed to righting past wrongs and working to ensure justice is delivered for victims."

"We thank the committee for its report and will consider its findings and recommendations."



▲ Tajwer Siddiqui with his daughter Alina and his wife, Shehlar Tajwer

GP says he has to leave the UK after autistic daughter is denied a visa

Diane Taylor

An experienced and highly regarded doctor working at an east London surgery says he has no choice but to walk away from his job because the Home Office is separating him from his wife and autistic daughter.

Tajwer Siddiqui says he has found himself in this situation at a time when the number of full-time GPs in the UK is falling.

The 59-year-old doctor has worked in medicine for decades in his home country of Pakistan and in Saudi Arabia. He successfully applied to the Home Office for a highly skilled worker visa to take up a position at an NHS GP surgery in Ilford, east London, called Doctor's House.

The surgery is sponsoring his visa and he began working there on 1 July, as a GP assistant until he completes an exam called PLAB - Professional Linguistics Assessment Board test - that all doctors who have qualified overseas must take before they can start to practise as a doctor in the UK.

His wife, Shehlar Tajwer, 50, is also a qualified family doctor, who hopes to work as a doctor in the UK. She too was granted a visa to come and work here as a dependant of her husband.

The couple have a 19-year-old daughter, Alina Tajwer Siddiqui, who cannot live independently because of her autism. But the Home Office has refused her a visa to come to the UK, saying that her parents have not demonstrated "compassionate or compelling circumstances" that would justify officials granting her permission to live with her parents in the UK, in what is known as a grant of leave outside the rules.

Earlier this year the previous government tightened the rules for health and care workers and international students, who were previously allowed to bring relatives to the UK when they secured a job here. The change led to a decrease in these applications by about one-third.

Siddiqui said: "If the Home Office do not allow Alina to come to the UK I will have no choice but to leave my job ... and go back to Pakistan so I can be with my wife and my daughter. All three of us need to be together so we can look after Alina."

The Home Office was approached for comment.

Music review

A breakout star having the time of her life

Chappell Roan

Manchester Academy

★★★★★

Alim Kheraj

Over the last few months Chappell Roan has been through it. The breakout star of 2024 has shared stories of intrusive fan behaviour, being stalked and expressed her anxiety about her newfound level of fame. "I've pumped the brakes on anything to make me more known," she said during a podcast interview in July. "It's kind of a forest fire right now."

Slowing things down has not meant retreating, however. In fact, when Roan skips on to the stage there is little indication that she is having anything other than the time of her life.

Dressed in a bedazzled leotard adorned with a clamshell bust and a starfish on her rear (tonight's show



▲ Chappell Roan performing in Manchester, where fans also dressed in under-the-sea inspired outfits

PHOTOGRAPH: ANDY VON PIP/SHUTTERSTOCK

is mermaid-themed), she launches into the driving Femininomenon, jumping around the stage doing high kicks.

Perhaps helping Roan stay grounded is the simplicity of the staging. She could certainly pull off Gaga-level bombast, but aside from some nifty lighting there are no dancers or confetti cannons here.

It feels DIY, like watching a local act or a low-budget take on Rocky Horror, and is all the better for it.

Super Graphic Ultra Modern Girl gets a thrashing makeover thanks to crunchy guitars, Roan whipping her long red hair like a lion, while My Kink Is Karma, delivered with a downpour of percussion, becomes an outright mosh. Even Hot to Go, with its viral, YMCA-style dance routine, has a raw texture to it, as if Roan were fronting a punk band.

Roan's affinity for pop, and the camp and artifice of drag, is evident. Picture You becomes a queer take on Aerosmith's Crazy as she seduces a mic stand adorned with a green wig, and she embraces unashamed Kate Bush cosplay during the guttural bridge of Good

Luck, Babe!, throwing herself to the floor for extra dramatics.

Despite the characters she adopts, there is an undeniable humanity to her onstage persona. After seeing the impact on her fans, most dressed in under-the-sea inspired outfits, it's understandable why she would want to hold on to it for as long as possible.

"This is a place where you belong," she says to the crowd. After watching this brilliant show, you hope she continues to feel the same.

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National
Assisted dying

Right-to-die vote will depend
on private member's bill ballot

Peter Walker
Jessica Elgot

A vote to introduce assisted dying across the UK could be imminent after Downing Street reiterated that it would not obstruct a private member's bill and indicated it would

support an MP in drafting it. However the issue could cause serious divisions across parties. Keir Starmer has previously said he supports a change in the law but the justice secretary, Shabana Mahmood, has said she could not back a policy she described as "a really dangerous position to be in". While a Liberal

Democrat MSP is leading efforts to change the law in Scotland with a private member's bill, Ed Davey, the Lib Dems leader, is known to have doubts. Much of the timing will depend on whether an MP who finished high enough in the annual ballot for a private member's bill to guarantee some parliamentary time will take up the issue. The MPs who finished near the top have all so far declined to say what subjects they are considering. It is understood some MPs who have high positions in the ballot

have been told by the government they would be given adequate staff resources to help them if they should choose to adopt the issue for their bill. However, No 10 denied that any pressure was being put on MPs. A government source said: "Keir's views on this issue are well known and he has a strong opinion on this. But it would always be a free vote and it has to be up to MPs and parliament how that bill is brought forward." While Starmer backs a change to the law, his health secretary, Wes Streeting, has said he is uncertain

about the idea. Mahmood told the Spectator in May that she could not back assisted dying. She said: "If it just becomes the norm that at a certain age or with certain diseases, you are now a bit of a burden ... that's a really dangerous position to be in." A government spokesperson said: "Successive governments have taken the view that any change to the law in this sensitive area is a matter for parliament to decide. The government has made it clear it will not stand in the way of debates and votes on any legislation brought forward."

'He had no dignity and wanted to go'
The suffering that led to a change in the law

For the last week of Simon Biggerstaff's life, "pretty much all he said was 'make it stop, I can't stand it'", according to his widow, Sue. Her husband had been diagnosed with an aggressive form of motor neurone disease and was in "horrible pain", she said. Previously a fit, active man, he was paralysed from the neck down, with a twisted bowel and barely able to speak.

"He was starting to rot away, his body was breaking down while he was still alive. He had no dignity, and he wanted to go. He'd had enough of his life as it was, and there was nothing I could do," she said. "We filled him full of drugs, but they weren't doing anything in the end. He was in pain 24 hours a day."

He died, aged 65, in May 2022. Sue Biggerstaff had never given any thought to assisted dying until Simon got sick, but now she is one of its most vocal advocates on the Isle of Man. In July, she addressed members of the Tynwald, the island's parliament, as they debated a bill to legalise assisted dying, urging them not to delay its passage.

Soon after, the bill - which allows terminally ill residents of the island to end their life at a time of their choosing - passed in the House of Keys. Next month, the parliament's legislative council will begin to scrutinise it, and it is expected to become law some time in 2025.

Legislators in Scotland and Jersey are also considering bills to legalise assisted dying. At Westminster, Lord Falconer has

proposed a change in the law, and a Commons private member's bill is also expected to get a hearing in the coming months.

Campaigners say momentum is building behind legalisation. They point to a sea change in MPs' views on the issue since it was easily defeated in the last vote in the Commons in 2015, and clear, consistent support for assisted dying among the public. The prime minister is in favour of change. This is an issue whose time has come, they say.

After a series of amendments, the bill requires five years' residency on the island, a prognosis of 12 months or less to live for adults over the age of 18, and mental competency. Life-ending drugs must be self-administered, and a conscience clause allows healthcare professionals to opt out of delivering the service.

The bill was supported by two-thirds of the 24 members of the House of Keys, but there has been opposition to assisted dying from the Isle of Man Medical Society (IOMMS) and from faith organisations.

A poll conducted by the IOMMS last year found that 75% of healthcare workers were opposed to legalising assisted dying, and a third said they would consider leaving the island if the bill became law.

Fiona Baker, a GP on the island, said she and others were concerned that people may feel under pressure "at a really vulnerable time in their life" to decide whether to opt for an assisted death. "People may be forced into thinking this is the right thing to do, not to be a burden on their families or the NHS. People will end their lives prematurely."

She also feared that the criteria for assisted dying would be widened - the "slippery slope" argument raised by many opponents who point to the experience of other countries, such as Belgium and Canada.

She added: "It's just not needed. What is needed is better funding for hospice and palliative care. It just feels wrong. If you see someone standing on a bridge about to leap, your natural instinct is to talk them down, not push them off." Harriet Sherwood



▲ Sue and Simon Biggerstaff, who was ill with motor neurone disease

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'I want them crushed' The e-bike backlash and why one council is ready to ban them

Sammy Gecsoyler

Coming out of Wembley Park tube station, it is hard not to be dazzled by the flashy high-rises and looming stadium. Were it not for the B&M store, you could mistake the north-west London neighbourhood for a buzzy district in Tokyo or Seoul.

But as you walk down the station stairs, reality sets in. Lime e-bikes, which can be rented through an app and have become ubiquitous in the capital, litter the pavements. Some are upright but just as many are tossed on their side.

This may not be the case for long. On 31 October, Brent could become the first council in the UK to ban the green two-wheelers. "Look! That's what we're talking about," says Muhammed Butt, the leader of Brent council, pointing at a cluster of Lime e-bikes by the station.

He has drafted a list of demands that the company must agree to if it is to avoid a Halloween ban. These include the introduction of dedicated parking bays, resources to remove incorrectly parked or abandoned bikes and larger fines for users who fail to leave their e-bikes in the correct location.

Butt is not alone in his frustration with the San Francisco-based company, which operates in more than 230 cities around the world. In London, there are an estimated 30,000 rental bikes on the city's streets. Lime owns and operates the majority of them.

A number of councils have already mandated parking bays for e-bikes after mounting complaints that they are abandoned on pavements and roads. Disability and sight-loss charities have said the bikes are making London's pavements less accessible.

Last year, Met officers were called to a lock-up in Hammersmith and Fulham after Lime hired contractors to snatch back bikes that the council had seized. The council's leader, Stephen Cowan, later said things had been "sorted".

In the middle of rush hour in Willesden Green, a leafy high street lined with Middle Eastern restaurants and posh coffee shops, news that the lime-green bikes could soon disappear from the area was welcomed by some.

"I want them rounded up and crushed," said Pat, who did not want to provide her last name. The 86-year-old, who uses a walking stick, often finds herself dodging e-bikes strewn across the pavement. "Life's bad enough when you're getting older and you're not very steady on your feet without these bikes in your way. Good riddance."

Heidi, 52, the manager of Daisy Chain florist just outside the tube station, said she lugged about 15 of the 32kg bikes - about the same weight as a budget tumble dryer - away from her shopfront each month. "People just dump them with no consideration," she said.

Even those who use the bikes want to see less of them cluttering up pavements. Jude Umolu, 43,

rides a Lime e-bike to and from his home to the tube station in the morning. He supports designated parking stations. "It's convenient having them on the pavement but it's a health and safety thing," he said. "In the morning they're pretty much everywhere."

While he does not want them banned, Umolu said he would go back to walking to the station if they were banished from the borough. "I have coped without them in the past," he said.

For some, the bikes are more than a nuisance. Robert Goodsell, 74, says he often sees children whizzing dangerously up and down on hacked e-bikes, thanks to online tutorials on how to break into them. Once hacked, the bikes emit an annoying alarm sound, which keeps residents up at night. To stop them from locking down, they must be ridden at speed. Lime says hacked bikes account for 5% of trips but 40% of complaints.

In July, Goodsell's 77-year-old wife was hit by one while leaving

'It's convenient but it's a health and safety thing - in the morning they're everywhere'

Jude Umolu
Lime e-bike user



750

Number of Lime e-bikes in Brent, a figure the firm wants to double to 1,500, according to the council



▲ Muhammed Butt, Brent council's leader: 'Look! That's what we're talking about' PHOTOGRAPH: LINDA NYLIND/THE GUARDIAN

her home. In a video seen by the Guardian, she is knocked back into a hedge by a teenager speeding down a pavement on a Lime e-bike.

Luckily, her injuries were minor. "If she had been as little as two inches further into the road when she was struck, there could have been far more severe consequences," he said.

Goodsell said his neighbours, some of whom are elderly or disabled, had been unable to leave their homes after the bikes were parked directly outside. While he wants to see firm action taken over the hacked e-bikes, he is generally in favour of the bikes if regulated.

Other councils have managed to get a handle on Lime, including through designated parking areas. Lime said it was willing to provide data and funding to help get parking locations in place.

Butt is also demanding that the fines Lime charges users who abandon bikes in unsafe locations are paid to the council. He wants to see the current £10 in-app fine rise to rival the £130 penalty that motorists are charged for parking in the wrong place.

Currently, councils cannot fine e-bikers. Rachel Blake, the MP for Cities of London and Westminster, is lobbying the government to change this. She said: "We need to find powers for local authorities to fine people parking badly and to fine companies."

Brent council has had £210m cut from its budget over the past 14 years. "We do not have the resources, funding and staff," Butt said. "The amount of dumping that goes on in our parks, streams and rivers - our staff have to go in and pick them out. We're not here to do Lime's job."

Butt said Lime wanted to double the number of bikes in the borough from 750 to 1,500, but he said the neighbourhood had had enough.

A Lime spokesperson said: "We recognise that a small proportion of e-bikes are obstructing pavements and busy junctions, creating difficulties for those with access needs, and we understand the importance of keeping our pavements safe for all. We regularly gather feedback from sight loss and disability charities to improve our operations."

"To enforce mandatory parking rules in Brent, we first need the council to build a functional network of parking locations. We want to work with the council to address these concerns."

Women 'disheartened' at halting of Weinstein charges in the UK

Ben Quinn

Women who were key to exposing the disgraced Hollywood film producer Harvey Weinstein have told of frustration at the decision by UK prosecutors to discontinue two indecent assault charges against him.

Zelda Perkins, a former personal assistant to Weinstein who broke a



▲ Zelda Perkins said the decision was influenced by events in the US

non-disclosure agreement to help expose him as a rapist, said the decision called into question the justice system's attitude towards sexual assault and rape.

"It's about how the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) balances what it's going to cost them in terms of resources and the likelihood of a conviction," she said.

The CPS announced this month that it was discontinuing the charges of indecent assault against a woman in London in 1996 after a review of evidence found "there is no longer a realistic prospect of conviction".

Perkins said she believed the developments were partly influenced by

events in the US, where Weinstein's 2020 conviction for sex crimes was overturned by a New York appeals court. He is due to be retried and also faces new charges there.

"What happened in the US is not about his guilt," she said. "There was a legal technicality and all that does is highlight yet again that this is about the disparity of power. If you are wealthy, you can afford lawyers, you will continue looking for smaller and smaller legal loopholes."

"I don't think that was the sole reason, but it fed into the decision here."

Rowena Chiu, who was also an assistant to Weinstein and who publicly accused him of attempting to

rape her in Venice in 1998, said it had been her understanding that British prosecutors were waiting to see how the trials in the US would go.

"But it does appear the case that the logistics and the cost and the barriers to getting very powerful, wealthy men convicted remains a deterrent," she said. "It is disheartening that the balance of power is so tipped against survivors."

Weinstein was indicted last week on additional charges before a retrial in New York. He was convicted in 2020 after being found guilty of a criminal sex act in the first degree and rape in the third degree and was sentenced to 23 years in prison.

Eyewitness



▼ **Es Mercadal, Spain**
The 'jaleo' at the Sant Nicolau festivities on Saturday, the final event of the Menorcan summer festival season, in which riders,

or caixers, from across the island make their horses jump and rear to the rhythm of the music and the excitement of the crowd

PHOTOGRAPH: MATTHIAS OESTERLE/ALAMY



World

Netanyahu warns Yemen's Houthis they will pay 'heavy price' after missile hits Israel

Lorenzo Tondo
Jerusalem

The Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, said yesterday that Yemen's Houthi rebels would pay a "heavy price" after the group claimed its first ballistic missile strike on Israel and its leader warned of more attacks.

The missile – which the Houthis said was an advanced surface-to-surface hypersonic missile – triggered air sirens at about 6.30am, and local media aired footage of people racing to shelters at Ben Gurion international airport south-east of Tel Aviv.

According to reports, it hit an open area in the Ben Shemen forest, sparking a fire near Kfar Daniel. There were no reports of casualties or damage.

The Israeli military is investigating whether the fire was the result of falling fragments due to the interceptor missiles launched at the projectile, or if it successfully penetrated Israeli air defences as the Houthis have claimed. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) confirmed that interceptors from Israel's Iron Dome and Arrow air defence systems were deployed but said it had not yet determined whether any had been successful.

The IDF said an "initial inquiry indicated the missile most likely fragmented in mid-air [after] several interception attempts, adding that "the entire incident is under review".

Netanyahu hinted at a military response in a statement released at the start of a cabinet meeting yesterday. "This morning the Houthis

launched a surface-to-surface missile from Yemen into our territory. They should have known by now that we charge a heavy price for any attempt to harm us," he said.

"Those who need a reminder in this matter are invited to visit the port of Hodeidah," he added, referring to Yemen's Red Sea city, which Israeli warplanes bombed in July after the Houthis claimed a drone strike that killed a civilian in Tel Aviv.

The Houthi leader, Abdel-Malek al-Houthi, warned of further attacks on Israel. "The operation our forces carried out today with an advanced Yemeni missile is part of the fifth stage of the escalation," he said yesterday. "What is to come will be greater."

Nasruddin Amer, the deputy head



▲ Benjamin Netanyahu hinted in a statement yesterday that the Israeli military would respond to the Houthi attack PHOTOGRAPH: ABIR SULTAN/AP

of the Houthi media office, said the attack was the "beginning", claiming in a post on X that a Yemeni missile had reached Israel after "20 missiles failed to intercept".

A Houthi military spokesperson, Yahya Saree, said a "new hypersonic ballistic missile" had been aimed towards an Israeli military target and had crossed 1,270 miles in 11 minutes, while another Houthi official, Hezam al-Asad, posted a taunting message in Hebrew on X.

Israeli media reports suggested the missile had been detected at a very late stage. "The warhead of this missile is separate from the body, and with the help of wings and jam-proof navigation systems it zigzags its way

11

Number of minutes it took for the missile to cross 1,270 miles into Israel, according to the Houthis

IDF 'High probability' Gaza strike killed three hostages

Lorenzo Tondo

The Israeli military has said there is a "high probability" that three hostages found dead in a tunnel at the end of last year were mistakenly killed in a strike that also took the life of Hamas's northern Gaza brigade chief, Ahmed al-Ghandour, in November.

The families of Col Nik Beizer and Sgt Ron Sherman, both 19, and the French-Israeli civilian Elia Toledano, 28, who were abducted by Hamas on 7 October, were informed in the last week by officials from the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) that a comprehensive inquiry revealed their relatives had lost their lives as a result of IDF actions.

Their bodies were recovered on 14 December from a tunnel in Jabaliya but the most likely cause of death was only recently determined, the military said.

"The findings of the investigation suggest that the three, with high probability, were killed by a byproduct of an IDF airstrike," a statement said.

"This is a highly probable estimate given all the data, but it is not possible to determine with certainty the circumstances of their death."

The families were initially told the hostages had been killed by Hamas captors and, in January, the IDF rejected Hamas's assertions that they had been killed in an Israeli airstrike.

The conclusions of the investigation could add to pressure on the Israeli government to strike a deal to bring home the remaining hostages held by Hamas.

The mothers of the two soldiers had pressed for a full account of how their sons had died. "We have to find out the truth about everything," Maayan Sherman, the mother of Sherman, told the Wall Street Journal in May. "Even if the truth is: 'We had to kill them.'"

The November airstrike was aimed at Ghandour, who was taking cover in a tunnel.

"At the time of the strike, the IDF did not have information about the presence of hostages in the targeted compound," the Israeli military said in the statement.

"Furthermore, there was information suggesting that they were located elsewhere, and thus the area was not designated as one with suspected presence of hostages."



'At the time of the strike, the IDF did not have information about the presence of hostages'

Israeli military

Flood deaths

Storm lashes central and eastern Europe

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Botanical garden braced for disaster

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towards the target, which can make interception systems very difficult," said a report on the Ynet website.

The Houthis, who like Hezbollah are aligned with Iran, have repeatedly fired drones and missiles toward Israel since the start of the war in Gaza between Israel and Hamas, but nearly all of them have been intercepted over the Red Sea.

They have also repeatedly attacked commercial shipping in what they portray as a blockade against Israel in support of the Palestinians, although most of the targeted vessels have no connection to Israel.

If confirmed, this would mark the first instance of a missile launched from Yemen landing on Israeli soil.

In July an Iranian-made drone sent by Yemen's rebels struck Tel Aviv, killing one person and wounding at least 10. At the time, the drone appeared to have crossed much of the country through the multilayered air defences that have intercepted almost all Houthi drones and rockets since the Gaza war began.

The incident will raise concerns across Israel about the ability of the country's anti-ballistic missiles systems to defend it from attacks that could come simultaneously from Gaza, Iran, Lebanon and Yemen.

A senior Biden administration official told CNN in June that Israel's air defences risked being overwhelmed by multiple attacks.

The Israeli military yesterday also reported that approximately 40 projectiles had been launched from Lebanon, with the majority either being intercepted or landing in uninhabited regions.

Tens of thousands of people have been displaced on both sides of the Israel-Lebanon border, and Netanyahu said the current situation was not sustainable.

"The existing situation will not continue. We will do everything necessary to return our residents safely to their homes," he said. "We are in a multi-arena campaign against Iran's evil axis that strives to destroy us."

Tensions are also high in the West Bank, where Israeli military operations have been going on for weeks and violence has surged to unprecedented levels, posing a significant threat to local communities.

A UN worker was fatally shot by a sniper while on the roof of his home in the northern West Bank on Saturday.

Ten months into Israel's war on Gaza, the death toll has passed 41,000, according to health authorities there.

Saudi Arabia

West urged to tackle Iranian arms supplies

Patrick Wintour
Diplomatic editor

The claimed acquisition by Yemen's Houthi rebels of hypersonic missiles capable of penetrating Israeli air defences threatens to further heighten Middle East tensions, as Saudi Arabia calls for more western action to constrain the supply of weapons to the group.

Saudi Arabia, which supports the Yemen government opposing the Houthis, believes Iran has been arming the group, including with the weapons used in the attacks on commercial shipping in the Red Sea.

But in the Houthi capital, Sana'a, from where the rebel group masterminds its attacks on shipping, the leadership celebrated yesterday's claimed attack on Israel as a home-grown breakthrough, and said the technology was created by the hard work of Yemeni technicians. It promised more strikes to come.

Previous Houthi missile attacks have not penetrated far into Israeli airspace, with the only one reported to have hit Israeli territory falling in an open area near the Red Sea port of Eilat in March. An attack with an Iranian-made drone on Tel Aviv in July killed one person.

The Houthis, a Shia group that has held Sana'a since 2014, may have employed the Qadr F variant of Iran's 20-year-old Qadr-110 or Ghadr-110 medium-range ballistic missile.

Iran has repeatedly been accused, including by the UN, of supplying weapons to the Houthis, initially for use in fighting the Saudi-backed Yemen government based in Aden.

A ceasefire exists inside Yemen but the UN special envoy for the country, Hans Grundberg, has told the UN security council that the threat of a return to all-out civil war remains.

Turki al-Faisal, a former Saudi intelligence chief and diplomat, called on Friday for more international action to block such assistance, and said the "pinprick bombings" mounted on Houthi positions by US and UK naval forces in the Red Sea needed to be more effective.

"We have seen the deployment of European and US fleets along the Red Sea coast, and more can be done there to interdict the supply of weaponry that comes to the Houthis from Iran," he told Chatham House in London. He said it was unclear if the Iranians could control the Houthis, and the world was in trouble if it could not.

Saudi Arabia has not joined the US military attacks because it says it has been pursuing a diplomatic route to form a national government in Yemen.



'War stole our future'

The children denied an education

Bethan McKernan
Jerusalem

Every evening, for two hours, Asma Mustafa sits down with the small children of Nuseirat camp in central Gaza for what now passes as school in the beleaguered strip. She makes do with what is available: sometimes there are pens and paper for basic maths and literacy, but most class time is taken up with storytelling, singing and play.

"I have been doing this since November," said Mustafa, 38, who taught at a girls' high school in Gaza City before the war. "Many children are now working or helping their families find basic things like food during the day, but I try to give them a little bit of structure and normality in the evenings."

Last week was supposed to mark the beginning of the new school year, but in Gaza 625,000 school-age children are now entering a second year in which they have been denied the right to education because of the Israel-Hamas war. More than 45,000 six-year-olds were due to start school this year.

In the 11 months since Hamas's 7 October attack on Israel, almost all of Gaza's 2.3 million population have been displaced, and some schools have become shelters. About 90% of Gaza's 307 public school buildings and all 12 universities have been damaged or destroyed in Israeli attacks, according to the Education Cluster,

▲ Asma Mustafa with children at the Nuseirat refugee camp in Gaza. 'Education has stopped,' she says
PHOTOGRAPH: ASMA MUSTAFA

a collection of aid groups led by Unicef and Save the Children.

"Education has totally stopped since 7 October and the future is still unclear," Mustafa said. "There's no vision for how we start again because we are still under attack. Everything and everyone is targeted."

According to the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory, 25,000 school-age children have been killed or injured. There is no reliable data but it appears that many children have been put to work, collecting firewood or building makeshift shelters and gravestones.

Yara al-Shawa, 22, from Gaza City, found out last September she had won a full scholarship towards a master's programme in human rights law in Qatar. Unable to leave the strip because of the Israeli blockade, she and her school-age siblings now spend morning to night trying to keep their family alive and well.

"My younger brother now takes on responsibilities that no child should bear: gathering supplies, fetching water, tending to our household needs," she said of 15-year-old Ayman. "I'm always struck by how much he has changed. He's not little any more."

"The war has stolen our future. What once seemed like achievable dreams - me becoming a lawyer, my brother finishing school - now feel like fantasies."

Small-scale initiatives to keep children learning and engaged are present all over Gaza, and last month Unrwa, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, managed to launch a "back to learning" programme in 45 shelters, which includes games, drama, arts, music and sports activities.

Like so many in Gaza, Mustafa has little choice but to cling to the hope that the war will end soon and the children of Gaza will be able to go back to a more normal life. "The kids of Gaza are the future. They give me hope," she said. "They give me the power to keep standing, to keep going."



▲ Ron Sherman (top), Nik Beizer and Elia Toledano were abducted by Hamas on 7 October

◀ Thousands of protesters at an anti-government rally in Tel Aviv on Saturday to demand greater efforts to secure the release of hostages in Gaza
PHOTOGRAPH: JACK GUEZ/AFP/GETTY

Eight drown and four missing as floods of 'epic proportions' sweep central and eastern Europe

Sam Jones

Eight people have drowned in Austria, Poland and Romania with four others reported missing in the Czech Republic as Storm Boris continues to lash central and eastern Europe, bringing torrential rain and floods that have forced thousands of people to evacuate their homes.

Swathes of Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia have been battered by high winds and unusually fierce rains since Thursday.

Austria's vice-chancellor, Werner Kogler, said yesterday that a firefighter had died tackling flooding in Lower Austria, as authorities declared the province, which surrounds the capital, Vienna, a disaster area. Some areas of the Tirol were blanketed by up to a metre of snow – an exceptional weather event for mid-September.

Rail services were suspended in the country's east early yesterday and several metro lines were shut down



◀ Glucholazy, in southern Poland, was flooded over the weekend and the Biala river burst its banks
PHOTOGRAPH: SERGEI GAPON/AFP/GETTY

clear roads in Vienna about 150 times since Friday, local media reported.

Poland's prime minister, Donald Tusk, said one person in the Kłodzko region had drowned. Tusk was travelling through the south-west of the country, which has been hit hardest. About 1,600 people have been evacuated in Kłodzko, and Polish authorities have called in the army.

"The situation is very dramatic," Tusk said yesterday after a meeting in Kłodzko, which was partly under water as the local river rose to 6.7 metres yesterday morning – well above the alarm level of 2.4 metres – before receding slightly. That surpassed a record set during heavy flooding in 1997, which partly damaged the town and claimed 56 lives.

On Saturday, Polish authorities shut the Gołkowice border crossing with the Czech Republic after a river flooded its banks, as well as closing several roads and halting trains.

in Vienna, where the Wien River was threatening to overflow, according to the APA news agency.

Emergency services made nearly 5,000 interventions overnight in Lower Austria where flooding had trapped many residents in their homes.

Firefighters had intervened to

'My house is under water. I don't know if I will ever return to it'

Pavel Bily
Lipováłázne resident

In the nearby village of Glucholazy, Zofia Owsiaa, a resident, watched with fear as the fast-flowing waters of the swollen Biala river surged past. "Water is the most powerful force of nature. Everyone is scared," said Owsiaa, 65.

In Budapest, officials raised forecasts for the Danube to rise in the second half of this week to above 8.5 metres, as rain continued in Hungary, Slovakia and Austria.

Gergely Karácsony, the mayor of Budapest, said: "According to forecasts, one of the biggest floods of the past years is approaching."

In the Czech Republic a dam in the south burst its banks, flooding towns and villages downstream. Police said four people were missing after incidents across the country.

Pavel Bily, a resident of Lipováłázne, in the north-east, said: "What you see here is worse than in 1997 and I don't know what will happen because my house is under water and I don't know if I will even return to it."

Six people have died in floods in south-east Romania over the past two days. In the worst-affected region, Galati in the south-east, 5,000 homes were damaged. "This is a catastrophe of epic proportions," said Emil Dragomir, the mayor of Slobozia Conachi, a village in Galati.

Additional reporting
Agence France-Presse and Reuters

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The GuardianWeekly

Trump targeted in assassination attempt at his Florida golf club

Continued from page 1

his deputies immediately sealed off the area.

The sheriff estimated the person was spotted between 300 and 500 yards from where Trump was, but “with a rifle and the scope like that, that’s not a long distance,” he said.

The discovery of a GoPro camera mounted on a fence beside two backpacks, and close to the rifle and scope allegedly left behind by the person, fuelled speculation that they intended to film or livestream their actions.

“Fortunately we were able to locate a witness that came to us and said: ‘Hey, I saw the guy running out of the bushes, he jumped into a black Nissan, and I took a picture of the vehicle and the tag,’” Bradshaw said.

“We were able to get a hit on that vehicle on I95 ... We took him up there and he identified [the suspect] as the person he saw running out of the bushes and jumped into the car.”

The FBI, in a statement, said the agency believes it was the second attempt on Trump’s life in two months after he survived a shooting at a campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, in July.

“The FBI has responded to West Palm Beach Florida and is investigating what appears to be an attempted assassination of former president Trump,” it said.

Trump said he would “never surrender” in a statement posted online. The former president said: “There were gunshots in my vicinity, but before rumors start spiraling out of control, I wanted you to hear this first: I AM SAFE AND WELL!”

“Nothing will slow me down. I will NEVER SURRENDER!”

The sheriff of Martin county, William Snyder, described the apprehension of the suspect. He said his deputies “immediately flooded I95 on the northbound lane at every exit between the Palm Beach line and St Lucie county line” after receiving the alert, and spotted and stopped the vehicle.

The sheriff said the suspect was unarmed and no weapon was immediately visible. The suspect, whom Snyder said was now in the custody of the FBI, offered no resistance.

“The suspect’s demeanour I would describe as having a relatively calm, flat affect,” he said. “He was not displaying a lot of emotions, he never asked: ‘What is this about?’. Obviously law enforcement [was there] with long rifles, blue lights, a lot going on. He never questioned it.”

“He was not armed when we took him out of the car.”

Snyder said the vehicle would be towed back to Palm Beach county and handed over to the FBI, whom he said would get a search warrant for it.

Bradshaw told the press



▲ Ric Bradshaw, from the West Palm Beach Sheriff task force, shows a picture of an AK-style rifle with a scope and bags found by the Secret Service at the Trump International Golf Club after the incident

PHOTOGRAPH: CRISTÓBAL HERRERA/EPA



conference that the arrested person had made “no statement right now as far as his involvement in the incident, and there’s further investigation to be completed”.

Dave Aronberg, the state attorney for Palm Beach county, said: “Our prosecutors are currently working up warrants and a motion for pretrial detention for the suspect. In that way, he will be kept in custody.”

“But our filing of these warrants and charges at the state level does not preclude federal charge that could be coming. But in the meantime, it looks like the warrants and the pretrial detention motion will happen first.”

Trump was injured in an assassination attempt at a political rally in Pennsylvania on 13 July. A spectator was killed, two others were injured, and Secret Service snipers shot the would-be assassin dead.

‘He’s running out of lives’ Family and US politicians shocked by second incident

Edward Helmore

Family and political figures from both ends of the political spectrum expressed shock as details emerged of an apparent attempted assassination attempt of Donald Trump at his Florida golf course.

Secret Service agents opened fire after spotting a man hiding in bushes with an AK-47-style rifle a few hundred yards from the former US president as he was playing golf. The man fled when they opened fire. A suspect was later arrested and a weapon, a scope and a GoPro camera were recovered.

Two months ago, Trump was lightly injured after a gunman opened fire on him at a Pennsylvania rally.

Amid widespread fears of civil

unrest in the bitter US election, the reaction across the political spectrum to a second possible attack was instant.

The White House said Joe Biden and Kamala Harris had been briefed on the incident. “They are relieved to know that he is safe. They will be kept regularly updated by their team,” a statement read.

Harris said on X: “I have been briefed on reports of gunshots fired near former President Trump and his property in Florida, and I am glad he is safe. Violence has no place in America.”

Trump’s family also reacted. “My father is running out of lives here,” son Eric Trump told Fox News’ Sean Hannity. “How many more rifles are going to come within assassination distance of my father?”

In an email to supporters, Trump

said: “There were gunshots in my vicinity, but before rumors start spiraling out of control, I wanted you to hear this first: I AM SAFE AND WELL!”

“Nothing will slow me down. I will NEVER SURRENDER!” he added.

The South Carolina Republican senator and one of Trump’s top congressional allies, Lindsey Graham, said on X that he had spoken with the former president after the incident and that Trump was in “good spirits” and was “one of the strongest people I’ve ever known”.

The Martin county sheriff’s office said a suspect “believed to be connected to a shooting incident at Trump International” had been apprehended after fleeing the scene.

Steven Cheung, Trump’s campaign communications director, said in a statement: “President Trump is safe following gunshots in his vicinity.”

Trump’s running mate, Ohio senator JD Vance, said in a statement: “I’m glad President Trump is safe. I spoke to him before the news was public and he was, amazingly, in good spirits. Still much we don’t know, but I’ll be hugging my kids extra tight tonight and saying a prayer of gratitude.”

Sheriff Ric Bradshaw said the suspect appeared “calm” when he was arrested by police after fleeing the scene. He had been confronted by Secret Service after being spotted with a rifle and fired upon, Bradshaw said.

Anthony Guglielmi, chief of communications for the Secret Service,



▲ Police in Florida stop a vehicle after initial reports of the incident

wrote on X: “The Secret Service, in conjunction with the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office, is investigating a protective incident involving former President Donald Trump.”

The latest incident comes less than two months after Trump survived an assassination attempt in Butler, Pennsylvania, at a political rally.

One rally-goer was killed and law enforcement officials returned fire, killing the suspected attacker. No clear political motive for the attack has been identified. Trump was grazed by a bullet in the ear and an image of the bloodied ex-president raising a fist in the air after the shooting has been widely spread by his supporters.

An internal Secret Service investigation has confirmed that multiple, substantial communication breakdowns preceded the 13 July attempted assassination in Pennsylvania.

On Saturday, the Washington Post, citing unnamed officials, reported that the former president’s security detail failed to direct local police to secure the roof of the building used by the gunman.

Tropical oasis in peril

Kyiv garden relying on wood-fired stoves to survive as Russia targets energy sector

Luke Harding
Kyiv

Zhanna Yaroslavskaya showed off a barrel-shaped stove in the middle of a tropical greenhouse. Nearby was a large pile of logs. “It’s a pretty neanderthal arrangement,” she explained. “When the power shuts off we feed the stove with wood. In winter we do this round the clock. Our plants require constant temperatures. They don’t like cold and hot.”

Inside the glass nursery were dozens of rare specimens, all bromeliads native to the Americas. Silvery wisps of beard-like *Tillandsia* descended from a pipe. A pineapple poked out of a stem. A screen next to the stove protected a group of starfish-like earth stars, native to Brazil. The collection needed a minimum temperature of 10C, Yaroslavskaya – a senior researcher – said. Below that everything would die off.

The greenhouse is one of eight in the Mykola Hryshko national botanical garden in Kyiv. Founded in 1935, it is Ukraine’s biggest garden and one of the largest in Europe. It is home to about 13,000 species of trees, flowers and other plants from around the world. The 52-hectare (130-acre) site has scientific departments and two laboratories. With its roses and camellias, it is a popular venue with wedding photographers.

But the park is staring at disaster. In recent months, Russia has systematically destroyed most of Ukraine’s energy infrastructure. Power cuts in the capital and across the country are common, with the situation getting worse. The city authorities have said they will not be able to guarantee supply in the freezing months ahead. Prices for electricity have doubled, as the garden’s funding has shrunk.

The Ukrainian president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, said yesterday that over the last week Russia had used about 30 missiles of various types, more than 800 guided aerial bombs and almost 300 attack drones against Ukraine.

“Worst-case scenario is we lose a big part of our collection,” Roman Ivannikov, the head of the garden’s tropical and subtropical plant department, said. Money is so tight he and his colleagues recently

▼ One of the greenhouses sheltering fragile tropical specimens at Kyiv’s Mykola Hryshko botanical garden

PHOTOGRAPHS: ANASTASIA VLASOVA/THE GUARDIAN



‘It’s garden therapy. The volunteers do useful work. They go home feeling better’

Roman Ivannikov
Head of tropical plants



▲ Zhanna Yaroslavskaya and, left, a *Doritis pulcherrima* orchid in flower

maintain temperatures at 20-22C. But there was no back-up in the case of a prolonged shutdown.

Ivannikov pointed out some of the collection’s exotic highlights, including an egg-in-a-nest orchid from China – with a strange white-and-purple-spotted flower – and a delicate green jewel orchid. Another specimen – *Doritis pulcherrima* – was descended from a plant sent into space in 1986. The orchid was part of a Soviet mission to the Mir space station.

The garden collaborates with international partners. In 2014, it sent plants to Vietnam after their original habitat was destroyed to make way for banana and coffee crops. “I travelled with 45 orchids,” Ivannikov recalled. “I watched on TV as Russia took Crimea.” Scientific conferences with Moscow stopped. When Russia launched its full-scale invasion Ivannikov took his family out of Kyiv, returning a week later.

The Kremlin continues to fire missiles at the capital. From time to time, falling debris breaks glass in the greenhouses. Blast waves from explosions have dislodged a chunk of wall and knocked over red-listed plants. “We haven’t had a direct hit.



◀ Iryna Yudakova looks after the garden’s azaleas and rhododendrons

But we suffered a lot of damage,” Ivannikov said. In January, a rocket flew above the main orangery, a giant glass dome containing banks of vines and a towering king palm.

Iryna Yudakova, an engineer, was inside. “I went out and saw a streak in the sky,” she said. “There was an explosion. A piece of shrapnel fell next to me. Another hit a window. I was lucky.” Yudakova said she enjoyed her job but the pay – 8,000 hryvnia a month (£150) – was measly. “Previously I was a psychologist. When the war started I lost my clients. Without my husband I couldn’t survive,” she said.

Yudakova’s duties include looking after the rhododendrons and azaleas. In February, one of her favourite plants – an old specimen bred in Germany in the 1930s – lost most of its leaves during a blackout. “It got too cold,” she said. “The younger, smaller plants survive better.” Standing next to the denuded shrub, she reflected: “It’s like losing a relative or a pet. I think of them as my kids. I water them, care for them, talk to them.”

Many staff have worked at the garden for decades. Others fled Russian occupation. Among them are a father and daughter, in charge of the bonsai collection, who escaped Mariupol, which Russia flattened in 2022. Ivannikov said his soldier cousin died defending the eastern city. About 1,000 volunteers also help with tasks such as pruning lavender, removing unwanted hops and watering. “It’s gardening therapy. The volunteers do useful work. They go home feeling better,” Ivannikov said.

Back at the bromeliad house Yaroslavskaya said she would like to replace the building – constructed in 1976 under communism – with a modern, more heat-efficient version. She recognised there was no point in making improvements while bombs fell randomly from the sky. For now, the objective was for the garden and its 4,000 tropical and subtropical plants to get through winter.

There were also smaller challenges. A bold squirrel had climbed in through a ventilation window and made off with the figs from a rare tree. Apart from getting rid of the squirrel, what else did she want? “If I had a magic wand I would wish there was no Russia,” she replied. “No Russia means no problem. We could live normally.”

Change in the air UK gears up for airport expansion

Page 31



Tax on aviation fuel 'could raise £6bn a year' for UK

Gwyn Topham

Transport correspondent

Campaigners have urged the chancellor to introduce a tax on aviation fuel, with a report showing that charging duty at the same rate paid by motorists would raise up to £6bn a year for the public finances.

An analysis by the Transport and Environment UK (T&E UK) thinktank said introducing a "fair" equivalent to the fuel duty paid in other sectors could raise between £400m and £5.9bn annually, based on the 11m tonnes of kerosene consumed by planes taking off from the UK in 2023.

T&E UK said the current system meant a teacher driving to school would pay more fuel duty than a private jet owner would to fly away on holiday. Airlines pay no tax on aviation fuel in the UK.

The report said it was a "common myth" that aviation fuel could not be taxed, with the UK having the right to tax domestic flights and, post-Brexit, flights to the EU. These account for 80% of departures. Securing the full revenues would require an "anti-tankering" law to ensure airlines bought 90% of the fuel for outbound flights in the UK.

Fuel duty on diesel or petrol at the pumps is levied at 52.95p a litre, and many expect Labour to raise the level by scrapping the 5p cut made by the Conservatives in 2022. A lower rate of 11p is paid by farmers and rail operators for red diesel.

T&E UK called on the chancellor to apply fuel duty to every flight legally possible and said it should be introduced at a starting rate of 9p a litre next year, before rising annually until it matches road fuel duty in 2030.

The thinktank said it was not

possible to say how much it would add to individual airfares but that it would probably make flights more expensive.

Its UK policy manager, Matt Finch, said: "With a £22bn black hole staring the country in the face, the chancellor needs to pursue any and all avenues to raise funds. The baffling lack of meaningful taxation of the

52.95

Pence per litre fuel duty currently levied at the pumps, with farmers and rail operators paying 11p

9

Pence per litre starting rate for tax on jet fuel called for by T&E UK, to rise slowly to match road fuel tax

aviation industry is a slap in the face of drivers, farmers and our ailing rail system, all of which have paid their fair share for decades."

Finch added: "For the sake of the economy and the environment, it's time to end the unfair anomaly that allows the aviation sector to pollute with impunity while not paying any [fuel] tax."

However, airlines said they did pay significant sums through other duties, and changes to the UK emissions trading scheme (ETS) would also increase taxation.

Tim Alderslade, the chief executive of the trade body Airlines UK, said: "The aviation industry contributed £3.85bn to the exchequer last year through air passenger duty and the phasing out of UK ETS free allowances for airlines is due to raise between £1.6bn and £4.1bn between 2026 and 2033.

"The sector is fully committed to net zero emissions by 2050 and with the world's third largest aviation network and proud history of innovation, the UK is in prime position - with government and industry working together - to lead the transition to a net zero future without hurting passengers or damaging aviation's status as a key UK economic enabler."

Staff should be enrolled in work pension schemes from 16, says IFS

Jack Simpson

Employees as young as 16 should be automatically enrolled into workplace pensions and there is a strong case for making their employers pay in even when they do not contribute themselves, according to a leading thinktank.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) has warned that many workers are on track for "inadequate retirement incomes", with between 30-40% of private-sector workers, or 5-7 million people, set to fall short of what is needed for a minimum standard of living.

Employers must now automatically enrol employees into a pension scheme if they are aged between 22 and state pension age, and both make contributions unless the employee opts out. The rules state these must be a minimum of 8% of the worker's earnings, with the worker paying in 5% and the employer adding 3%.

The IFS found that more than one in five people working in the private sector did not save anything in a workplace pension scheme at all. Less than half of those who did save paid in more than 8% of their earnings.

Current saving rates by private sector workers would leave about 32% of them with a post-work income that would not meet the minimum retirement standard of living, it said.

The minimum standard of living, as defined by the Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association, is now set at £14,400 for an individual and £22,000 for a couple, but will grow alongside average earnings.

To help boost savings, the IFS said the government should consider increasing the age range for auto-enrolment to 16-75 years while also making it mandatory for employers to contribute 3% of total pay to a worker's pension even if they had opted out of making contributions.

It also recommended the default contribution should be increased for some earners, suggesting there should be a 12% default contribution for those earning above £35,000, with the extra paid by the employee.

It said that implementing these changes, as well as other reforms, would boost retirement incomes by between 12% and 16% - the equivalent to £1,400 and £2,100 a year - and raise the standard of retirement for a large percentage of those in retirement. It added that this would also result in a 1% drop in take-home pay.

England's north-south gap in rents shrinks to 11-year low

Jack Simpson

The gap in rents paid by those in the north and south of England has closed to its lowest level in at least 11 years, figures show.

In its latest monthly lettings index, the property company Hamptons reported that the average rent paid by tenants in the north of England in August was £960 a month, an increase of 9.6% compared with the same period last year.

This was 37% lower than the £1,317 the average renter in the south of the country pays - the smallest percentage gap since Hamptons first began publishing the index in 2013.

It marks a significant reduction from the 43% gap recorded last year, and the 55% peak in 2021.

Aneisha Beveridge, head of research at Hamptons, said the gap had been narrowing for five years and reflected a similar trend in the home-buying market.

She added: "It's only been in the last year that the gap has really started to narrow beyond the point we've previously seen.



▲ Newcastle, in the north-east, the region recording England's biggest year-on-year rise in rents, at 12.1%

PHOTOGRAPH: DUNCAN ANDISON/GETTY

"This has been driven by the slowing of rental growth across southern England caused by greater affordability pressures."

Rents have continued to grow in the south, recording a 5% rise compared with last year.

Hamptons defines the north as the north-east and north-west of England, as well as Yorkshire and the Humber, while the south is made up of London, the east of England, and

the south-east and south-west of the country. The index shows the north-east of England as the area with the biggest increase, with rents up by 12.1% year on year.

London recorded the smallest rent rises, at just 2.1% year on year, well down from the huge 17.1% increase recorded in August last year.

However, Beveridge said: "While tenants in the south have seen weaker growth in percentage terms, in cash terms, they've faced big rises."

In inner London, a 7.9% increase across the year amounted to renters paying an average of £3,318 a month, £242 more than last year. In the

Midlands a 7.2% increase amounted to £66 more a month.

Last Thursday, the Labour government introduced the renters reform bill, which includes a number of changes to renters' rights including the banning of no-fault evictions.

It also launched a ban on landlords renting out properties for more than advertised.

However, the National Residential Landlords Association, which represents 110,000 landlords, has said the new bill could lead to landlords increasing rents in high-demand areas such as city centres and coastal tourist hotspots.

International aid What Labour can do to rebuild Britain's reputation

Larry Elliott
Economics editor



Domestic issues have dominated in the two months or so since the election. Much of the talk has been of holes in the public finances, the dire state of the NHS, and the early release of prisoners to prevent jails overflowing.

That's not to say there has been no attention paid to foreign affairs. Labour has pledged continuing support for Ukraine and suspended 30 arms export licences to Israel. Keir Starmer has sought to burnish links with the US and to reset relations with the EU.

However, there is one area of foreign policy where the government has yet to show its hand: the aid budget. This is in stark contrast with the approach after the 1997 election, when Tony Blair's administration quickly signalled its intent by creating

the Department for International Development, setting a target of spending 0.7% of national income on overseas assistance and lobbying hard for debt relief. It was, as Blair said recently, an example of how the exercise of soft power can enhance a country's reputation.

That reputation has suffered in recent years. The Department for International Development is no more, having been subsumed into the Foreign Office. The 0.7% target has been abandoned, and large chunks of what remains of the aid budget have been snaffled by the Home Office to pay for the mounting cost of asylum seekers.

Bond, the umbrella organisation for UK development groups, has calculated that once spending on refugees is stripped out, aid spending this year will be 0.36% of national income, half the old 0.7% target and the lowest since 2007.

The UK's bilateral spending – money it provides directly rather than through international organisations such as the World

Bank – has been cut by 37% in education, by 39% in health, by 58% in water and sanitation, and by 42% in humanitarian support.

Times have been tough in the UK since 2020, so these were seemingly easy cuts for the last government to make. It said it would return to the 0.7% once the public finances were strong enough, but only when the government was not borrowing for day-to-day spending and when the national debt was falling. As Bond points out, these conditions have been met once in the past 20 years.

The decision to cut the aid



▲ Tony Blair prioritised the UK's aid budget after his 1997 election victory

budget was an example of short-term expediency trumping long-term thinking. The reason rich western countries are experiencing higher levels of legal and illegal migration is because people living in poverty and facing the existential threat of the climate crisis see little prospect of a better life in their own countries. Slashing the aid budget and redirecting a large chunk of what is left of it to paying the bill for asylum seekers is a classic case of tackling the symptom rather than the cause.

Labour has pledged to “rebuild Britain's reputation on international development”, and there is much to be done. Public support for poverty reduction in the world's poorest countries has ebbed since its high tide two decades ago. It would be naive to expect Rachel Reeves to put a bigger aid budget at the top of her list of things to spend money on, but Bond says there are three things Labour should do.

It says aid spending should be maintained at its 2023 level of 0.58% of national income this year and next to reflect the large amount of money being spent on refugees.

It also wants reform of the methodology Labour has inherited from the Conservatives for reporting overseas development assistance (ODA) spending on

refugees. Finally, it is seeking “fair, transparent and achievable fiscal tests for a return to 0.7% of gross national income, and scale-up [of] ODA as progress is made towards meeting them”.

These are all sensible and reasonable suggestions, to which could be added three more. First, the Department for International Development should be re-established as a self-standing ministry. That would give it more clout in Whitehall.

Second, the government should honour its manifesto commitment to make “tackling unsustainable debt” a priority. This would require an international coalition, but Labour could show its intent by passing a law that would prevent private bond holders from using the English courts to sue countries burdened with unpayable debts.

Finally, Britain should be pressing for the International Monetary Fund to issue a new tranche of special drawing rights. These rights are an international reserve asset that can be exchanged with hard currencies and are in effect a form of money creation that can be used to help poor countries.

Much damage has been done to Britain's reputation, and repairing it will not be quick or cost free. Pledges will be empty words unless they are backed up by action.

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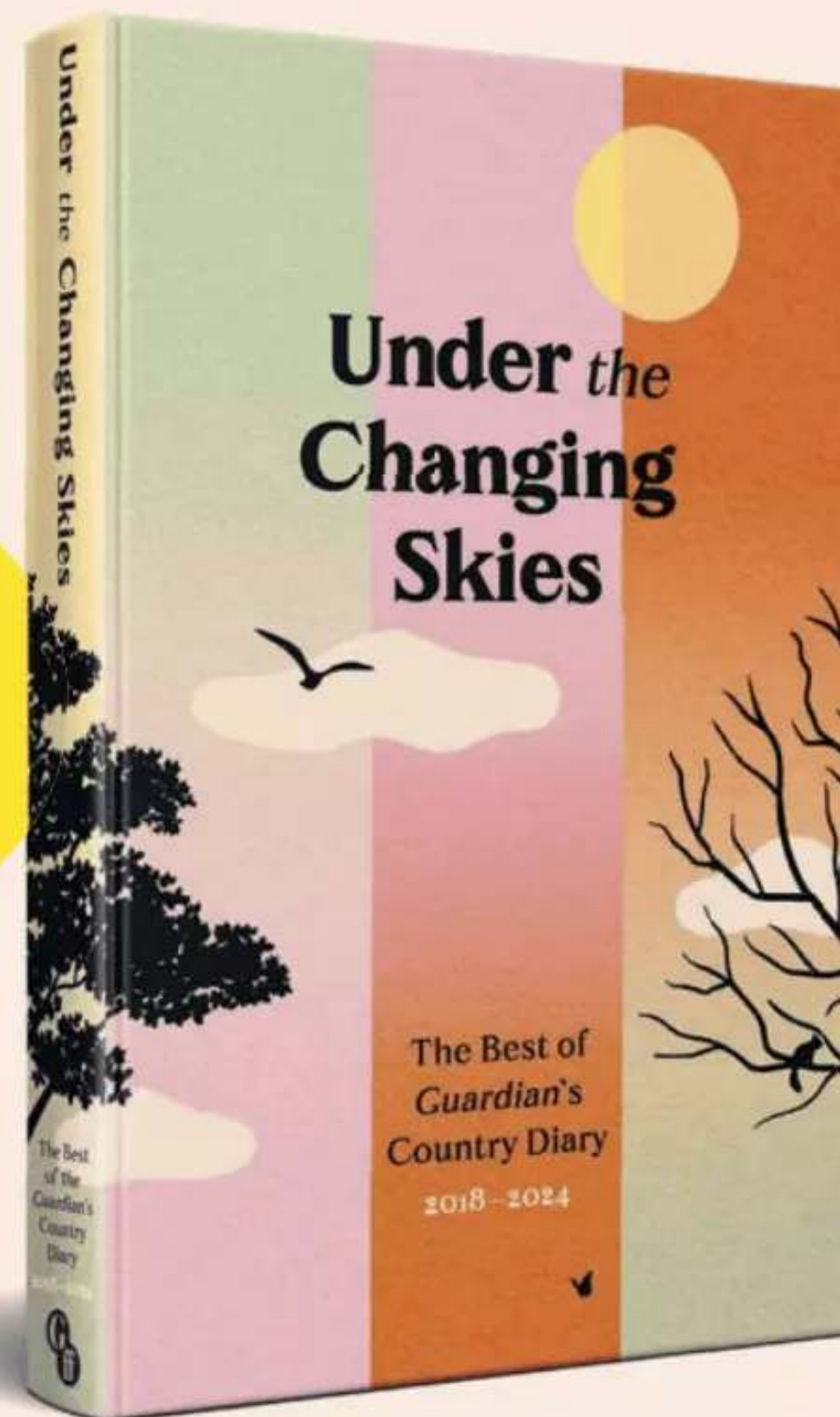
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▼ London City airport can increase its passenger numbers by 40% - and others are seeking to boost capacity

PHOTOGRAPH: LEON NEAL/GETTY



Airport expansion

Operators hope plans will fly with pro-growth Labour

Gwyn Topham

Transport correspondent

The younger, tormented minister considering his position before the Labour government granted Heathrow's third runway in 2009 might have been greatly relieved to know that, 15 years later, not a shovel would have touched the ground. But now, returning to power with a revamped energy and climate brief, Ed Miliband again finds himself in a cabinet that many in aviation hope may usher in bigger airports and more flights - with enough CO₂ emissions to outweigh any new solar farms.

Despite emerging victorious in political and legal battles over its plans for a third runway, Heathrow has dropped down the airport expansion queue. Among London airports alone, City has just been granted permission to expand passenger numbers by 40%, while Luton and Gatwick await

ministerial decisions on major developments that would add huge numbers of flights.

Net zero may still be the government's stated ambition, but the messages ringing louder in airport executives' ears are those from the chancellor, Rachel Reeves, stressing growth and planning reforms to get Britain building infrastructure again - particularly the type not funded by the battered public purse. A pre-election interview in which Reeves underlined she had "nothing against expanding airport capacity ... I back our airports" was noted.

Growth doesn't necessarily mean new runways. Airports' passenger capacities are often limited in original planning conditions, which several hope to amend. Bigger planes and extended flight hours, as well as reconfigured buildings and more efficient operations, can all bring more customers through.

Manchester and Birmingham are growing with terminal renovations, while a big extension to Stansted's terminal follows the airport's legal

victory in pushing its permitted capacity to 43 million passengers a year.

Britain's operators might not yet have the brass neck of Ireland's Dublin airport, which its Ryanair-schooled chief executive Kenny Jacobs announced last week would simply be breaking its licensed 32m limit this year, and hadn't checked the sanctions. "We're in uncharted territory," Jacobs said.

But the operators would certainly echo his accompanying sentiments: that bigger airports mean trade, jobs and growth. Jacobs said meeting the threshold, by turning away a million passengers in 2025, would lose Ireland €500m (£420m) in visitor spending and cost 1,000 jobs.

Similar figures are bandied about in south-east England by Gatwick, which has rebranded an existing taxiway as a standby "northern runway" as it seeks permission for the kind of expansion ruled out last decade by the Airport Commission.

Tim Norwood, Gatwick's chief planning officer, said the runway plans "will be a major contributor to our airport's long-term growth and will deliver a significant boost to the region, by generating 14,000 new jobs and £1bn for the economy every year".

A planning inspector's report will land on the transport secretary Louise Haigh's desk in November, for a decision early in 2025. Before that, Haigh must rule on Luton's masterplan to fly 32 million passengers a year, up from the current 19 million maximum, by adding a terminal and expanding into a neighbouring park. Paul Kehoe, chair of Luton Rising, the council-owned company that runs the airport, said the proposal would make "best use of the airport's

existing runway and assets and play a crucial role in stimulating regional economic growth by enhancing trade, attracting investment and boosting tourism - generating an additional £1.5bn in economic activity every year by the mid-2040s". It would also bring 11,000 jobs at the airport.

Will these applications succeed? According to one industry source, "The mood music is positive ... There's something in the air." And not just another jet to the Balearics.

Labour's manifesto had none of the measures to curb aviation proposed by the Liberal Democrats or Greens, and decisions on these large privately funded infrastructure projects are expected to be led by the Treasury rather than the Department for Transport (DfT).

Officially, all expansion has to meet the party's four tests, three of which are environmental: would a bigger airport harm air quality, increase noise, and still allow Britain to meet its climate

'All progress in terms of CO₂ emissions is likely to be wiped out by one or two airport expansions'

Alex Chapman
New Economics Foundation

change targets? But the fourth, whether it brings countrywide economic benefits, is the one that suddenly seems the most germane to policymakers.

The industry insists the environment will not be simply shunted aside for the economy. AirportsUK, the renamed trade body for the operators, said international flights were "important enablers of economic growth", and that airport expansion "would directly create jobs, inject investment into all areas of the UK and stimulate trade and investment". But, it claimed, "airports can expand while meeting net zero commitments" and should be allowed "to grow sustainably, subject to planning and environmental requirements".

Most environmental groups, of course, disagree. Some argue that the economic arguments are fundamentally flawed. Alex Chapman of the thinktank the New Economics Foundation said: "If we are saying airport expansion drives growth, what is the mechanism? Typically most of the modelling suggests it is through business travellers and trade. But the statistics show that there has been no net increase in business travel since 2006, when capacity has grown dramatically. All the growth has come from the leisure market.

"That poses serious questions for those who argue airports deliver growth. It's not clear that residents flying overseas for holidays is of any economic benefit to the UK."

And, while the Ed Miliband of 2024 has rapidly approved massive renewable energy projects, Chapman warns: "All of that progress in terms of carbon emissions on onshore wind and solar is likely to be immediately wiped out by one or two airport expansions."

The shadow of the big one looms again. Heathrow declined to comment for this feature, but its chief executive, Thomas Woldbye, said in July that the airport was looking to get "more capacity out of the existing infrastructure", while also working on new runway plans.

Paul Beckford, policy director at the anti-Heathrow expansion group, Hacan, said: "All of these other south-east airport expansions combined don't equate to the size of Heathrow's expansion in its size or climate impact."

The DfT said: "We are committed to securing the long-term future of the UK's aviation sector. However, all expansion proposals must demonstrate they contribute to economic growth, while remaining in line with existing environmental obligations."



▲ Some big decisions are looming for Louise Haigh, the transport secretary

Weather

Monday 16 September 2024

UK and Ireland Noon today

Sunny

Mist

Fog

Sunny intervals

Hazy

Mostly cloudy

Overcast/dull

Sunny showers

Sunny and heavy showers

Light showers

Rain

Sleet

Light snow

Snow showers

Heavy snow

Ice

Thundery rain

Thundery showers

Temperature, °C

Wind speed, mph

Windy

35C

30

25

20

15

10

5

0

-5

-10

-15

-20

13

15

17

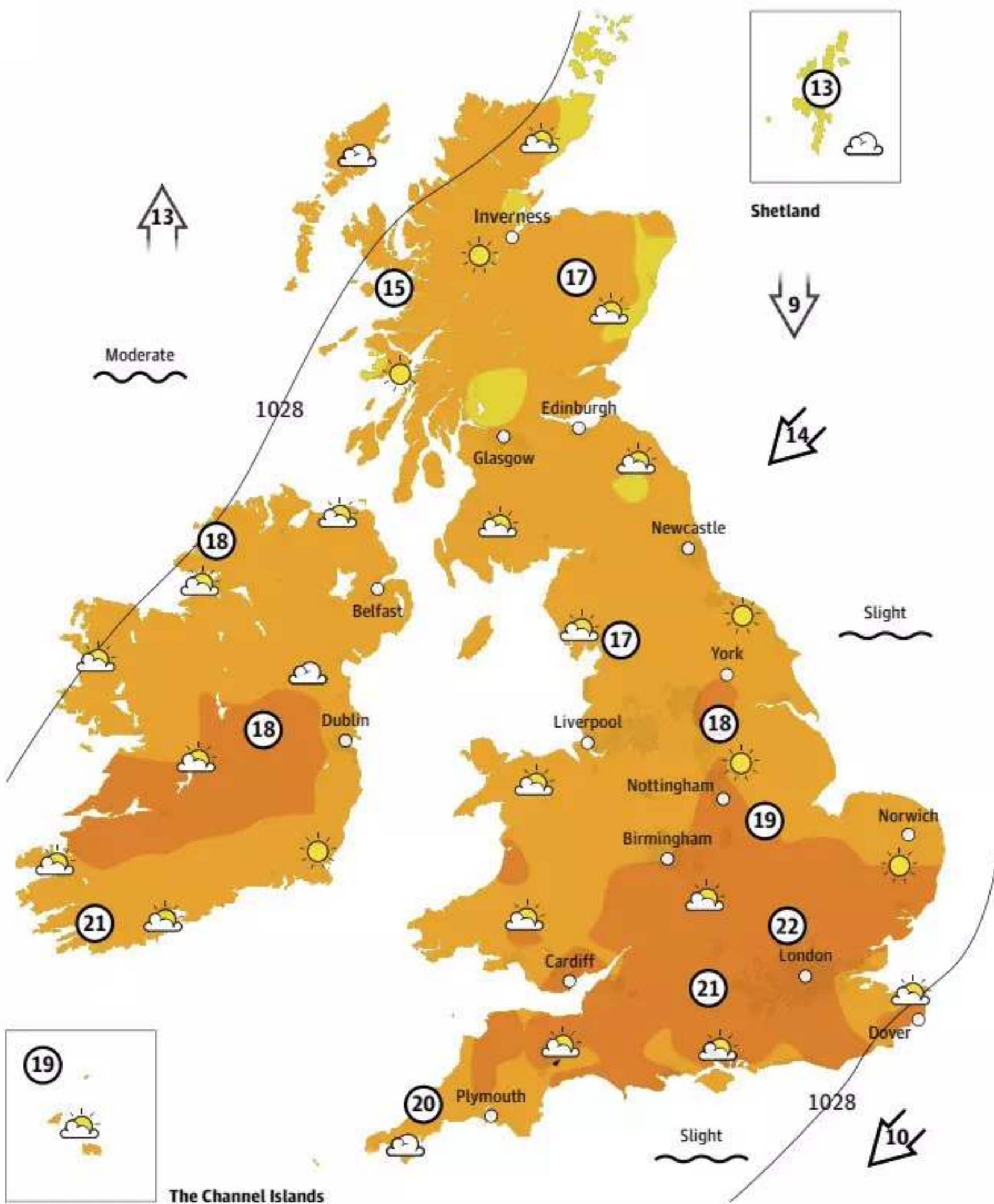
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19

20

21

22



Forecast

Low 7 High 20

Tomorrow

Low 8 High 20

Wednesday

Carbon count

Daily atmospheric CO₂ readings from Mauna Loa, Hawaii (ppm):

Latest	
14 Sep 2024	422.04
Weekly average	
08 Sep 2024	422.06
15 Sep 2023	418.52
15 Sep 2014	395.09
Pre-industrial base	280
Safe level	350

Source: NOAA-ESRL

Around the UK

London	Lows and highs	Precipitation	Air pollution
	10 22	0%	Low
Manchester	7 18	0%	Low
Edinburgh	7 18	0%	Low
Belfast	10 19	0%	Low
Birmingham	7 19	0%	Low
Brighton	10 21	0%	Low
Bristol	9 20	0%	Low
Cardiff	9 19	0%	Low
Newcastle	6 17	0%	Low
Penzance	13 18	25%	Low

Atlantic front



High tides

Aberdeen	0024	3.9m	1306	4.1m
Avonmouth	0633	11.8m	1856	12.6m
Barrow	1054	8.4m	2308	9.1m
Belfast	1031	3.2m	2238	3.5m
Cobh	0438	3.7m	1704	4.0m
Cromer	0540	4.7m	1827	4.8m
Dover	1030	6.3m	2255	6.5m
Dublin	1110	3.8m	2309	4.1m
Galway	0434	4.6m	1643	5.1m
Greenock	--	--	1158	3.1m
Harwich	1101	3.7m	2336	4.0m
Holyhead	0954	5.2m	2201	5.6m
Hull	0524	6.9m	1810	7.1m
Leith	0138	5.1m	1416	5.3m
Liverpool	1038	8.6m	2250	9.2m

London Bridge	0046	6.5m	1317	6.4m
Lossiemouth	1127	3.9m	2328	4.1m
Milford Haven	0534	6.3m	1754	6.8m
Newquay	0428	6.3m	1647	6.8m
North Shields	0230	4.7m	1510	4.9m
Oban	0533	3.5m	1748	4.0m
Penzance	0400	5.0m	1619	5.4m
Plymouth	0505	4.9m	1720	5.4m
Portsmouth	1100	4.5m	2306	4.6m
Southport	1006	8.3m	2218	8.9m
Stornoway	0630	4.4m	1834	4.8m
Weymouth	0529	0.9m	1741	1.2m
Whitby	0304	5.1m	1543	5.3m
Wick	1057	3.3m	2258	3.5m
Workington	1101	7.6m	2315	8.2m

Sun & Moon

Sun rises

0637

Sun sets

1911

Moon rises

1851

Moon sets

0345

Full Moon

18 Sept

AccuWeather

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather ©2024

Lighting up

Belfast	1938 to 0702
Birm'ham	1919 to 0645
Brighton	1911 to 0640
Bristol	1922 to 0650
Carlisle	1924 to 0648
Cork	1945 to 0712
Dublin	1937 to 0703
Glasgow	1931 to 0654
Harlech	1928 to 0654
Inverness	1931 to 0651
London	1911 to 0639
M'chester	1921 to 0647
Newcastle	1920 to 0644
Norwich	1907 to 0633
Penzance	1933 to 0702

Starwatch

On Wednesday, a partial lunar eclipse will occur. Though not as dramatic as a total eclipse of the sun, it can still be a wonderful sight. Lunar eclipses are caused by the Earth passing between the sun and the moon. This casts the Earth's shadow on to the moon's surface. Even for a partial eclipse, this one will be modest. At the moment of greatest eclipse, the darkest part of Earth's shadow will cover only 3.5% of the moon's visible hemisphere. Nonetheless, it is fascinating to watch the moment the shadow begins to bite into the moon and creep across its surface. The eclipse will be visible across Europe, Africa, Greenland and North and South America, but you will need to set your alarm clock. From London, the noticeable part of the eclipse (the umbral phase) will begin at 3.13am; maximum eclipse will be at 3.44am; and the event will be over at 4.15am. **Stuart Clark**

Around the world

Algiers	28	Lisbon	33
Ams'dam	19	Madrid	31
Athens	28	Malaga	27
Auckland	15	Melb'rme	14
B Aires	21	Mexico C	24
Bangkok	35	Miami	32
Barcelona	26	Milan	23
Basra	41	Mombasa	30
Beijing	27	Moscow	25
Berlin	18	Mumbai	30
Bermuda	27	N Orleans	31
Brussels	19	Nairobi	27
Budapest	14	New Delhi	33
C'hagen	18	New York	25
Cairo	32	Oslo	17
Cape Town	18	Paris	20
Chicago	31	Perth	23
Corfu	25	Prague	15
Dakar	30	Reykjavik	10
Dhaka	32	Rio de J	26
Dublin	18	Rome	24
Florence	25	Shanghai	30
Gibraltar	25	Singapore	32
H Kong	33	Stockh'm	16
Harare	31	Strasb'g	16
Helsinki	20	Sydney	20
Istanbul	25	Tel Aviv	30
Jo'burg	26	Tenerife	27
K Lumpur	32	Tokyo	28
K'mandu	25	Toronto	27
Kabul	26	Vancouv'r	18
Kingston	33	Vienna	12
Kolkata	31	Warsaw	24
L Angeles	22	Wash'ton	25
Lagos	29	Well'ton	13
Lima	19	Zurich	13

Football

Why Manchester City's hearing matters so much

Page 41 →

Formula One

Piastrri shows his class in winning Baku blockbuster

Page 38 →



Sport



▲ Sebastian Coe is the president of World Athletics and is hoping to succeed the current IOC president, Thomas Bach, next year

ATTILA KISBENEDEK/AFP/GETTY

In the running

Coe faces almighty fight to become IOC president – but write him off at your peril

Sean Ingle



While most Britons were demolishing the last of the Christmas turkey in 1979, Sebastian Coe ran 14.4 miles up the Derwent Valley, defying everything that nature and the elements dared to throw at him. “It was a hard effort, a 5:30 pace in wet tracksuits and slickers,” wrote the Olympic marathoner Kenny Moore, who tried to keep up. “The wind and rain howled out of the Pennines, stopping the men cold in places, blowing white water back up from the spillways into the lakes.”

Eventually Moore had enough and went to sit with Coe's father, Peter, who was driving behind them, listening to Schubert in the car. But Coe ploughed on. “I'm harder this year than last,” he told his father afterwards. “Clear to see,” came the response. A few months later the world realised it, too, as Coe won a brilliantly defiant Olympic 1500m gold in Moscow.

Almost 45 years later, Coe is still running. Only this time he isn't chasing the biggest prize in sport but its most powerful job: the presidency of the International Olympic Committee. Later today the IOC will announce the list of approved candidates to replace Thomas Bach next year. And, barring an unexpected twist, Coe will be the biggest name on the ballot.

But his path to victory is trickier than anything he faced on that wintry run in the Pennines. Not only does Coe have to persuade the majority of the IOC's eclectic membership of 111 voters – which includes royalty, former athletes, sports administrators and politicians – he has to do so while Bach does everything in his power

to stop him. This is a world of complex geopolitics, backroom deals, and a level of rivalry intrigue at which even a Vatican monsignor would flinch.

Insiders expect that around half a dozen candidates will end up fighting it out, including David Lappartient, the French president of world cycling, and Morinari Watanabe, the Japanese president of the International Gymnastics Federation. Both are seen as outsiders, along with the widely liked Prince Feisal al-Hussein of Jordan. Then we come to the big three: the Zimbabwean former swimmer Kirsty Coventry, the Spaniard Juan Antonio Samaranch, and Coe himself.

Coventry, who won seven Olympic medals and would be the first woman to get the job, has the advantage of being Bach's preferred candidate. She is also seen as intelligent and political. But for some she is still inexperienced at 41, and may not attract the majority of African votes. The 64-year-old Samaranch, meanwhile, may be the man to beat. He is an IOC vice-president, was co-chair of the 2022 Beijing Winter Games, and is seen as popular and smart. It helps, too, that he has the name recognition from being the son of a former IOC president and has already been campaigning intensely behind the scenes.

Yet no one in the field has a better CV than Coe. A double Olympic champion, who ran the London 2012 Games and then became the president of one of the biggest sports? And, for good measure, has had a successful commercial career and been a government whip? That ticks a lot of boxes. Coe can also point to his achievements and willingness to take tough decisions at World Athletics. The Athletics Integrity Unit has become the gold standard for catching dopers. Banning Russia for state-sponsored doping set him apart from the IOC and was widely lauded. And this year he has also set clear rules for protecting fairness in the female category, while athletics at the Paris Games was seen as a resounding success, too.

Yet none of this is any guarantee of victory. The IOC is like a private members club, with its own set of dynamics that are difficult to predict. Coe clearly upset some members – including Bach – with his decision to ban Russia, while awarding £50,000 in prize money to every Olympic track and field gold medallist was far

from universally welcomed either, especially as he didn't tell other sports in advance. Some believe that it has left Coe with a steep mountain to climb. Others, however, are convinced there is a path to victory. First, because there is a secret ballot next March, Bach's influence may not matter as much. Second, Coe's more open leadership style is likely to be welcomed by members who largely found themselves nodding along to Bach. And a third advantage, which Samaranch also possesses, is being seen as a big beast in a role that needs serious political intuition and heft.

Over the next four years, the next IOC president will have to deal with the continuing fallout between the US and China over the doping case of 23 Chinese swimmers, ahead of the LA Olympics. Possibly also during a Donald Trump presidency. They will also have to negotiate around a billion dollars worth of TV contracts in a vastly changed media landscape and find new sponsors to replace the departing Japanese companies. The IOC's next president will have to be a serious politician, cheerleader, CEO and sports promoter, sometimes at the same time.

The fight ahead promises to be messy and epic. However history has taught us not to write Coe off. After all, he has an unerring habit of defying the doubters, whether it is by winning Olympic gold in Moscow and Los Angeles, or getting the Games awarded to London in 2005. He could yet do it again.

Coventry, who won seven Olympic medals and would be first woman to get the job, is Bach's preferred candidate

The week ahead



Lucy Bronze and Chelsea open the new WSL season on Friday

Today

Tennis
WTA Korea Open
Seoul (to Sun)

Tomorrow

Football
Uefa Champions League
(8pm unless stated)
Group stage Bayern Munich v Dinamo Zagreb *TNT Sports 2*; Juventus v PSV (5.45pm) *TNT2*; Milan v Liverpool *Prime Video*; Real Madrid v Stuttgart *TNT1*; Sporting v Lille *TNT4*; Young Boys v Aston Villa (5.45pm) *TNT1*
Carabao Cup (7.45pm, *Sky Sports+* unless stated)
Third round Blackpool v Sheffield Wednesday; Brentford v Leyton Orient; Everton v Southampton; Manchester Utd v Barnsley (8pm) *Sky Sports Football*; Preston v Fulham; QPR v Crystal Palace; Stoke v Fleetwood (7.30pm)

Cricket
Vitality County Championship (all 10.30am)
Division One (first day of four) Hampshire v Worcestershire, Utilita Bowl; Kent v Nottinghamshire, Canterbury; Lancashire v Somerset, Old Trafford; Surrey v Durham, Kia Oval; Warwickshire v Essex, Edgbaston
Division Two (first day of four) Derbyshire v Middlesex, Derby; Glamorgan v Yorkshire, Sophia Gardens; Gloucestershire v Sussex, Bristol; Northamptonshire v Leicestershire, Northampton

Wednesday

Football
Uefa Champions League
(8pm unless stated)
Group stage Bologna v Shakhtar Donetsk (5.45pm) *TNT4*; Celtic v Slovan Bratislava *TNT2*; Club Brugge v Borussia Dortmund *TNT5*; Manchester City v Inter *TNT1*; PSG v Girona *TNT4*; Sparta Prague v Salzburg (5.45pm) *TNT6*
Carabao Cup
Third round Brighton v Wolves (7.45pm) *Sky Sports+*; Coventry v Tottenham (8pm) *SSF*
Women's Champions League
Second round: First leg
Anderlecht v Välerenga (6.30pm); Fiorentina v Wolfsburg (7pm); Häcken v Arsenal (6pm); Hammarby

v Benfica (6pm); Juventus v PSG (6pm); Osijek v Twente (1.30pm); Paris FC v Manchester City (4.45pm); Roma v Servette (1.30pm)

Tennis
ATP Chengdu Open
Sichuan, China (to Tue)
ATP Zhuhai Championships
China (to Tue)

Thursday

Football
Uefa Champions League
(8pm unless stated)
Group stage Atalanta v Arsenal *TNT1*; Atlético Madrid v RB Leipzig *TNT4*; Brest v Sturm Graz *TNT5*; Feyenoord v Bayer Leverkusen (5.45pm) *TNT2*; Monaco v Barcelona *TNT2*; Red Star Belgrade v Benfica (5.45pm) *TNT4*
Women's Champions League
Second round: First leg
Galatasaray v Slavia Prague (5pm); Sporting v Real Madrid (4pm); St Pölten v ZNK Mura (6pm)

Cricket
First Men's Test (first day of five) India v Bangladesh, Chennai (5am)
First Men's One-Day International
England v Australia, Trent Bridge (12.30pm)

Golf
BMW PGA Championship
Wentworth (to Sun)
Queen City Championship
Cincinnati (to Sun)

Friday

Football
Barclays WSL
Chelsea v Aston Villa (7pm) *BBC Two/BBC iPlayer*
Sky Bet Championship
Stoke v Hull (8pm) *SSF*

Rugby union
Gallagher Premiership
Bath v Northampton (7.45pm) *TNT1*; Newcastle v Bristol (7.45pm) *Discovery+*
Women's international
Wales v Australia (7pm)
Rugby league (all 8pm)
Betfred Super League
Huddersfield v Castleford *SS+*; Hull FC v Catalans; Hull KR v Leeds *SS+*; Leigh v St Helens *SS+*; Warrington v London *SS+*; Wigan v Salford *Sky Sports Main Event*

Tennis
Laver Cup
Berlin (to Sun) *Eurosport*

Saturday

Football (3pm unless stated)
Premier League
Aston Villa v Wolves; Crystal

Palace v Man Utd (5.30pm) *Sky Sports Premier League*; Fulham v Newcastle; Leicester v Everton; Liverpool v Bournemouth; Southampton v Ipswich; Tottenham v Brentford; West Ham v Chelsea *TNT1*

Sky Bet Championship
Bristol City v Oxford; Burnley v Portsmouth; Cardiff v Leeds; Coventry v Swansea; Luton v Sheffield Wed; Norwich v Watford (12.30pm) *SS+*; QPR v Millwall (12.30pm) *SS+*; Sheffield Utd v Derby; Sunderland v Middlesbrough (12.30pm) *SSF*; West Brom v Plymouth

Sky Bet League One
Full programme
Sky Bet League Two
Full programme
Barclays WSL
Brighton v Everton *YouTube*; Man Utd v West Ham *YouTube*
William Hill Scottish Premiership
Ross County v St Johnstone; St Mirren v Hearts
Premier Sports Scottish League Cup
Aberdeen v Spartans *Premier Player*; Rangers v Dundee *Premier Sports 1*

Rugby union
Rugby Championship
Argentina v South Africa (10pm) *SSME*; Australia v New Zealand (6.45am) *SSME*
Gallagher Premiership
Exeter v Leicester (3.05pm) *TNT1*; Gloucester v Saracens (5.30pm) *TNT1*

Cricket
Second Men's One-Day International
England v Australia, Headingley (11am) *Sky Sports Cricket*

Sunday

Football
Premier League
Brighton v Nottingham Forest (2pm) *SSPL*; Man City v Arsenal (4.30pm) *SSPL*
Sky Bet Championship
Preston v Blackburn (noon) *SSF*
Barclays WSL
Arsenal v Man City (12.30pm) *Sky Sports Mix*; Liverpool v Leicester (2pm) *YouTube*; Tottenham v Crystal Palace (2pm) *YouTube*
Premier Sports Scottish League Cup
Celtic v Falkirk (3pm) *PS1*
Women's Champions League
Second round: First leg
Vorskla Poltava v Celtic (noon)
Rugby union
Gallagher Premiership
Sale v Harlequins (3pm) *TNT1*



Football results

Premier League

		Home						Away						GD	Pts	Form
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A					
1	Manchester City	4	2	0	0	6	2	2	0	0	5	1	+8	12	WWWW	
2	Arsenal	4	1	1	0	3	1	2	0	0	3	0	+5	10	WWDW	
3	Newcastle	4	2	0	0	3	1	1	1	0	3	2	+3	10	WDWW	
4	Liverpool	4	1	0	1	2	1	2	0	0	5	0	+6	9	WWWL	
5	Aston Villa	4	1	0	1	3	4	2	0	0	4	2	+1	9	WLWW	
6	Brighton	4	1	1	0	2	1	1	1	0	4	1	+4	8	WWDD	
7	Nottingham Forest	4	0	2	0	2	2	2	0	0	2	0	+2	8	DWDW	
8	Chelsea	4	0	1	1	1	3	2	0	0	7	2	+3	7	LWDW	
9	Brentford	4	2	0	0	5	2	0	0	2	1	4	0	6	WLWL	
10	Manchester Utd	4	1	0	1	1	3	1	0	1	4	2	0	6	WLLW	
11	Bournemouth	4	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	4	3	0	5	DDWL	
12	Fulham	4	1	1	0	3	2	0	1	1	1	2	0	5	LDWD	
13	Tottenham	4	1	0	1	4	1	0	1	1	2	3	+2	4	DWLL	
14	West Ham	4	0	0	2	2	5	1	1	0	3	1	-1	4	LWLD	
15	Leicester	4	0	1	1	2	3	0	1	1	3	4	-2	2	DLLD	
16	Crystal Palace	4	0	1	1	2	4	0	1	1	2	3	-3	2	LLDD	
17	Ipswich	4	0	1	1	1	3	0	1	1	1	4	-5	2	LLDD	
18	Wolves	4	0	0	2	3	8	0	1	1	1	3	-7	1	LLDL	
19	Southampton	4	0	0	2	0	4	0	0	2	1	4	-7	0	LLLL	
20	Everton	4	0	0	2	2	6	0	0	2	2	7	-9	0	LLLL	

Scotland

WILLIAM HILL PREMIERSHIP											GD	Pts
	P	W	D	L	F	A						
Celtic	5	5	0	0	14	0	+14	15				
Aberdeen	5	5	0	0	10	3	+7	15				
Rangers	5	3	1	1	9	4	+5	10				
Dundee Utd	5	2	2	1	6	4	+2	8				
Motherwell	5	2	1	2	7	6	+1	7				
Dundee	5	1	3	1	9	9	0	6				
St Mirren	5	1	2	2	8	10	-2	5				
Hibernian	5	1	2	2	5	8	-3	5				
Ross County	5	1	2	2	3	8	-5	5				
St Johnstone	5	1	0	4	5	8	-3	3				
Kilmarnock	5	0	2	3	3	12	-9	2				
Hearts	5	0	1	4	2	9	-7	1				
Aberdeen	(1) 2											
Guéye 27 80												
17,155												
Celtic	(0) 2											
Engels 52pen												
McCowan 89												
Dundee Utd	(0) 0											
Rangers												
Lawrence 7												
Hibernian	(1) 2											
Kukharevych 45+1												
Boyle 72												
Ross County	(2) 2											
Wright 6, White 45+4pen												
Dundee												
4,068												
St Mirren	(2) 2											
Holusanya 7, O'Hara 41pen												
6,957												

Other football

LA LIGA											GD	Pts
	P	W	D	L	F	A						
Barcelona	5	5	0	0	17	4	+13	15				
Atlético Madrid	5	3	2	0	9	2	+7	11				
Real Madrid	5	3	2	0	9	2	+7	11				
Villarreal	5	3	2	0	11	8	+3	11				
Celta Vigo	5	3	0	2	13	10	+3	9				
Alaves	5	2	1	2	7	6	+1	7				
Girona	5	2	1	2	8	8	0	7				
Athletic Bilbao	5	2	1	2	6	6	0	7				
Espanyol	5	2	1	2	5	5	0	7				
Osasuna	4	2	1	1	5	7	-2	7				
Real Betis	4	1	2	1	3	3	0	5				
Mallorca	5	1	2	2	3	4	-1	5				
Sevilla	5	1	2	2	4	6	-2	5				
Leganes	5	1	2	2	3	5	-2	5				
Rayo Vallecano	4	1	1	2	4	5	-1	4				
Real Sociedad	5	1	1	3	3	6	-3	4				
Valladolid	5	1	1	3	2	13	-11	4				
Getafe	4	0	3	1	1	2	-1	3				
Las Palmas	5	0	2	3	6	10	-4	2				
Valencia	5	0	1	4	3	10	-7	1				
Atlético Madrid 3												
Girona 1												
Barcelona 4;												
Las Palmas 2												
Athletic Bilbao 3;												
Mallorca 1												
Villarreal 2;												
Real Sociedad 0												
Real Madrid 2;												
Sevilla 1												
Getafe 0;												
Celta Vigo 3												
Valladolid 1												
Friday												
Real Betis 2												
Leganés 0												
Today												
Rayo Vallecano v												
Osasuna (8pm)												

SERIE A											GD	Pts
	P	W	D	L	F	A						
Napoli	4	3	0	1	9	4	+5	9				
Internazionale	4	2	2	0	9	3	+6	8				
Juventus	4	2	2	0	6	0	+6	8				
Torino	4	2	2	0	5	3	+2	8				
Udinese	3	2	1	0	4	2	+2	7				
Verona	3	2	0	1	5	3	+2	6				
Empoli	4	1	3	0	3	2	+1	6				
Atalanta	4	2	0	2	8	8	0	6				
Milan	4	1	2	1	9	6	+3	5				
Genoa	4	1	2	1	4	5	-1	5				

WILLIAM HILL CHAMPIONSHIP										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts		
Falkirk	5	5	0	0	11	4	+7	15		
Ayr	6	4	2	0	14	4	+10	14		
Livingston	5	3	2	0	8	2	+6	11		
Queen's Park	5	2	1	2	5	6	-1	7		
Partick	5	1	2	2	5	4	+1	5		
Hamilton	6	1	2	3	5	10	-5	5		
Dunfermline	5	1	1	3	3	6	-3	4		
Airdrieonians	5	1	1	3	3	11	-8	4		
Morton	5	0	3	2	3	5	-2	3		
Raith	5	1	0	4	1	6	-5	3		
Airdrieonians 0 Falkirk 2; Ayr 1 Partick 1; Livingston 3 Hamilton 0; Queen's Park 1 Morton 0 Friday Dunfermline 2 Raith Rovers 0										
WILLIAM HILL LEAGUE ONE										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts		
Alloa	6	2	4	0	7	5	+2	10		
Queen of the South	6	3	1	2	6	4	+2	10		
Kelty Hearts	6	2	3	1	9	6	+3	9		
Montrose	6	2	3	1	6	3	+3	9		
Stenhousemuir	6	3	0	3	10	10	0	9		
Inverness CT	6	1	4	1	5	5	0	7		
Cove Rangers	6	2	1	3	9	10	-1	7		
Annan Athletic	6	2	1	3	6	10	-4	7		
Dumbarton	6	0	6	0	10	10	0	6		
Arbroath	6	0	3	3	4	9	-5	3		
Alloa 2 Inverness CT 2; Annan Athletic 1 Dumbarton 1; Kelty Hearts 1 Cove Rangers 3; Montrose 3 Stenhousemuir 0; Queen of the South 2 Arbroath 1										

Sky Bet Championship

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
West Brom	5	4	1	0	9	2	+7	13
Sunderland	5	4	0	1	12	4	+8	12
Blackburn	5	3	2	0	12	6	+6	11
Burnley	5	3	1	1	11	3	+8	10
Watford	5	3	1	1	9	5	+4	10
*Sheffield Utd	5	3	2	0	8	3	+5	9
Oxford Utd	5	3	0	2	9	6	+3	9
Derby	5	3	0	2	8	6	+2	9
Leeds	5	2	2	1	7	4	+3	8
Middlesbrough	5	2	2	1	6	4	+2	8
Swansea	5	2	1	2	5	3	+2	7
QPR	5	1	3	1	7	8	-1	6
Stoke	5	2	0	3	3	6	-3	6
Coventry	5	1	2	2	5	6	-1	5
Norwich	5	1	2	2	4	6	-2	5
Plymouth	5	1	2	2	5	9	-4	5
Bristol City	5	1	2	2	6	11	-5	5
Millwall	5	1	1	3	8	8	0	4
Luton	5	1	1	3	3	7	-4	4
Sheffield Wednesday	5	1	1	3	5	10	-5	4
Preston	5	1	1	3	3	9	-6	4
Hull	5	0	3	2	2	6	-4	3
Portsmouth	5	0	3	2	6	11	-5	3
Cardiff	5	0	1	4	1	11	-10	1

*Sheffield Utd deducted 2pts

Blackburn Travis 17, Ohashi 55 70	(1) 3	Bristol City 14,087	(0) 0
Derby Goudmijn 28	(1) 1	Cardiff 28,985	(0) 0
Leeds 36,405	(0) 0	Burnley Koleosho 18	(1) 1
Middlesbrough Conway 16 25,116	(1) 1	Preston Frøkjær-Jensen 43	(1) 1
Millwall 14,804	(0) 0	Luton Mengi 10	(1) 1
Oxford Utd El Mizouni 48	(0) 1	Stoke 11,507	(0) 0
Plymouth Ballard 54og Hardie 73pen Edwards 90+3	(0) 3	Sunderland Roberts 24pen Mundle 86 16,967	(1) 2
Portsmouth 20,205	(0) 0	West Brom Maja 1, Mowatt 51 90+2	(1) 3
Sheffield Wednesday (0) 1 Bannan 90+3 26,283	(0) 1	QPR Lloyd 90+6	(0) 1
Swansea Forson 4og	(1) 1	Norwich 14,097	(0) 0
Watford Dele-Bashiru 67 19,441	(0) 1	Coventry Simms 4	(1) 1
(Played on Friday)			
Hull 22,403	(0) 0	Sheffield Utd Hamer 15, McCallum 66	(1) 2

LEADING GOALSCORERS

5 Maja (West Brom). 4 Ohashi (Blackburn); Watmore (Millwall); Harris (Oxford). 3 Hamer (Sheff Utd); Mundle (Sunderland); Kayembe (Watford). 2 Weimann (Blackburn); Mayulu (Bristol City); Brownhill, Koleosho (Burnley); Wright (Coventry); Jackson, Goudmijn (Derby); Aaronson (Leeds); Conway, Clarke (Middlesbrough); Sainz, Sargent (Norwich); Lang, Saydee (Portsmouth); Frey (QPR); Arblaster (Sheff U); Mayenda, O’Nien (Sunderland); Mowatt (West Brom)

Other results

Rugby union

WOMEN’S INTERNATIONALS

England 24 New Zealand 12; Ireland 36 Australia 10; Scotland 59 Fiji 15

Rugby league

BETFRED SUPER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PD	Pts
Wigan	26	21	0	5	659	338	+321	42
Hull KR	26	20	0	6	693	310	+383	40
Warrington	26	19	0	7	686	319	+367	38
Salford	26	16	0	10	550	483	+67	32
St Helens	26	15	0	11	584	370	+214	30
Leigh	26	14	1	11	548	386	+162	29
Leeds	26	14	0	12	514	462	+52	28
Catalans Dragons	26	14	0	12	450	423	+27	28
Huddersfield	26	9	0	17	434	650	-216	18
Castleford	26	7	1	18	415	701	-286	15
London Broncos	26	3	0	23	317	862	-545	6
Hull FC	26	3	0	23	324	870	-546	6

Catalans Dragons 12 London Broncos 8; Huddersfield 0 Warrington 66; Hull FC 4 Salford 58 **Friday** Leigh 0 Hull KR 24; St Helens 40 Castleford 4; Wigan 38 Leeds 0

BETFRED WOMEN’S SUPER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PD	Pts
St Helens	14	13	0	1	614	88	+526	26
Leeds	14	11	0	3	528	122	+406	22
York	14	11	0	3	463	118	+345	22
Wigan	14	9	0	5	532	144	+388	18
Barrow	14	5	0	9	172	432	-260	10
Huddersfield	14	4	0	10	204	556	-352	8
Warrington	14	3	0	11	96	671	-575	6
Featherstone	14	0	0	14	128	606	-478	0

Featherstone 6 York 32; Huddersfield 36 Warrington 0 **Friday** St Helens 68 Barrow 0; Wigan 4 Leeds 24

BETFRED CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PD	Pts
Wakefield	24	23	0	1	892	256	+636	46
Toulouse	24	16	1	7	700	356	+344	33
Bradford	24	15	2	7	622	373	+249	32

Sky Bet League One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Wrexham	5	4	1	0	11	2	+9	13
Charlton	6	4	1	1	6	3	+3	13
Huddersfield	5	4	0	1	10	3	+7	12
Stockport	5	3	2	0	9	2	+7	11
Bristol City	5	3	1	1	10	6	+4	10
Birmingham	4	3	1	0	8	5	+3	10
Barnsley	6	3	1	2	10	9	+1	10
Mansfield	5	2	2	1	9	10	-1	8
Stevenage	5	2	1	2	5	3	+2	7
Wycombe	5	2	1	2	10	9	+1	7
Peterborough	5	2	1	2	7	7	0	7
QPR	5	2	1	2	5	5	0	7
Crawley	5	2	1	2	4	6	-2	7
Bristol Rovers	6	2	1	3	4	8	-4	7
Wigan	5	2	0	3	6	5	+1	6
Exeter	5	2	0	3	6	6	0	6
Rotherham	6	1	3	2	5	7	-2	6
Northampton	5	1	2	2	5	6	-1	5
Blackpool	5	1	2	2	9	12	-3	5
Burton	5	0	4	1	7	8	-1	4
Bolton	5	1	1	3	2	9	-7	4
Leyton Orient	5	1	0	4	3	8	-5	3
Shrewsbury	6	1	0	5	4	10	-6	3
Cambridge Utd	5	0	1	4	5	11	-6	1

Blackpool Hamilton 19 Husband 90+4	(1) 2	Exeter Francis 88 8,813	(0) 1
Bolton 22,532	(0) 0	Huddersfield Koroma 44 59pen Wiles 68 Evans 81	(1) 4
Bristol Rovers 7,925	(0) 0	Wigan Hugill 20 40 Aasgaard 50 Chambers 71	(2) 4

Crawley Quitirna 68pen 4,538	(0) 1	Stockport Barry 6	(1) 1
Mansfield Gregory 39 68 7,294	(1) 2	Cambridge Utd Longelo 50	(0) 1
Northampton Hoskins 4pen 5,995	(1) 1	Wycombe Udoh 11 Kone 52	(1) 2
Peterborough Poku 65 9,537	(0) 1	Lincoln City House 33	(1) 1
Reading 12,952	(0) 0	Leyton Orient Kelman 27	(1) 1
Rotherham Clarke-Harris 39 Humphreys 57 8,704	(1) 2	Burton Orsi 25 Cooper-Love 71	(1) 2
Shrewsbury List 54 89 Piergianni 59	(0) 0	Charlton Ahadme 50	(0) 1
Stevenage List 54 89 Piergianni 59	(0) 3	Barnsley 4,206	(0) 0

LEADING GOALSCORERS

4 Barry (Stockport); Gregory (Mansfield); May (Birmingham); Phillips (Barnsley). 3 Koroma (Huddersfield); Bodin (Burton); House (Lincoln); Husband (Blackpool); List (Stevenage); Marriott (Wrexham); Poku (Peterborough); Wiles (Huddersfield); Wootton (Stockport).

Sky Bet League Two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Notts County	6	4	2	0	14	6	+8	14
Gillingham	6	4	1	1	9	2	+7	13
Barrow	6	4	1	1	9	3	+6	13
Walsall	6	4	0	2	9	4	+5	12
AFC Wimbledon	5	4	0	1	9	4	+5	12
Doncaster	6	4	0	2	10	8	+2	12
Bradford	6	3	1	2	9	7	+2	10
Port Vale	6	3	1	2	9	8	+1	10
Crewe	6	3	1	2	4	7	-3	10
Newport	6	3	0	3	10	13	-3	9
Chesterfield	6	2	2	2	9	5	+4	8
Reading	5	2	2	1	6	5	+1	8
Salford	5	2	2	1	4	4	0	8
Tranmere	5	2	2	1	3	4	-1	8
Bromley	6	2	1	3	9	10	-1	7
Harrogate	6	2	1	3	6	7	-1	7
Colchester	6	1	3	2	9	10	-1	6
Swindon	6	1	3	2	7	8	-1	6
Cheltenham	6	2	0	4	8	10	-2	6
MK Dons	6	2	0	4	5	8	-3	6
Bolton	6	2	0	4	8	12	-4	6
Carlisle	6	1	0	5	6	14	-8	3
Accrington	6	0	2	4	6	14	-8	2
Morecambe	6	0	1	5	3	8	-5	1

AFC Wimbledon Hippolyte 11 Maycock 90 90+7	(1) 3	MK Dons 7,921	(0) 0
Accrington 2,883	(0) 0	Crewe Williams 85	(0) 1
Bromley Cheek 4 Thompson 6 3,322	(2) 2	Notts County Jones 13pen 89 Crowley 47, Jatta 56	(1) 4

Carlisle Wyke 42pen 52 7,090	(1) 2	Fleetwood Mayor 10 67 Coughlan 19	(2) 3
Gillingham Little 48, Clarke 82 89	(0) 3	Tranmere 6,660	(0) 0
Grimsby Green 45+3 5,496	(1) 1	Barrow Foley 14 Vassell 26	(2) 2
Morecambe Tollitt 17, Jones 83pen Flanagan 88og 2,754	(1) 3	Colchester Edwards 43, Tovide 49 Taylor 64	(1) 3
Port Vale Chislett 11	(1) 1	Chesterfield 7,976	(0) 0
Salford City Adelakun 60 86 2,347	(0) 2	Cheltenham Archer 48	(0) 1
Swindon Tshimanga 4 Glatzel 18 Baker 21og Cotterill 45	(4) 4	Newport County 6,857	(0) 0
Walsall Allen 19pen Johnson 88	(1) 2	Bradford Sanderson 38 5,967	(1) 1

LEADING GOALSCORERS

4 Molyneux (Doncaster); Berry-McNally (Chesterfield); Cheek (Bromley); Jones (Notts County); McGoldrick (Notts County). 3 Goodliffe (Colchester); Patrick (Tranmere); Sharp (Doncaster); Jatta (Notts County); Cook (Bradford); Allen (Walsall); Chislett (Port Vale); Crowley (Notts County); Wildig (Newport)

Vanarama National League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
York	9	6	2	1	15	6	+9	20
Forest Green	9	5	3	1	17	8	+9	18
Barnet	9	6	0	3	19	11	+8	18
Rochdale	9	5	2	2	14	5	+9	17
Gateshead	8	5	2	1	17	12	+5	17
Eastleigh	9	5	1	3	13	11	+2	16
Oldham	9	3	5	1	13	10	+3	14
Solihull Moors	9	4	2	3	11	10	+1	14
Dagenham & Red	9	3	4	2	17	10	+7	13
Halifax	9	3	4	2	9	7	+2	13
Hartlepool	9	3	4	2	7	6	+1	13
Yeovil	9	4	1	4	12	12	0	13
Woking	9	4	1	4	9	11	-2	13
Aldershot	9	3	3	3	16	15	+1	12
Sutton	9	3	3	3	14	13	+1	12
Altrincham	9	3	2	4	9	11	-2	11
Southend	8	2	4	2	10	9	+1	10
Boston	9	2	2	5	9	16	-7	8
Tamworth	8	2	2	4	8	16	-8	8
Braintree	9	1	4	4	5	11	-6	7
Wealdstone	9	1	3	5	6	11	-5	6
Maidenhead	9	1	2	6	10	17	-7	5
Fylde	8	1	2	5	9	18	-9	5
Ebbsfleet	9	1	2	6	5	18	-13	5

Barnet Shelton 5, Stead 17 Langston 84og	(2) 3	Braintree Akinde 2 1,507	(1) 1
Boston Hazel 73 1,949	(0) 1	Aldershot Barrett 29	(1) 1
Dagenham & Red Pereira 5 71pen Rees 17 90+8 Morias 65 73 Umerah 77	(2) 7	Gateshead Kalambayi 32og	(1) 1
Ebbsfleet Bingham 40	(1) 1	Hartlepool 1,424	(0) 0
Forest Green Doidge 2 May 6	(2) 2	Wealdstone McFarlane 43 88 2,165	(1) 2
Halifax Waters 27 Smith 45 Alimi-Adetoro 61	(2) 3	Eastleigh Brindley 82	(0) 1
Rochdale Mitchell 85 2,614	(0) 1	Solihull Moors Wilkinson 26 59	(1) 2
Southend Scott-Morris 12 7,179	(1) 1	Sutton Coley 45+5 Gubbins 51og Nadesan 75	(1) 3
Tamworth Wreh 45+2 Acquaye 54 Tshikuna 79	(1) 3	Maidenhead Sho-Silva 90+4 1,050	(0) 1
Woking Kendall 75 2,373	(0) 1	Oldham Lundstram 12 Akinola 49og Fondop-Talom 76	(1) 3
Yeovil 2,838	(0) 0	Atrincham	(0) 0
York Armstrong 50 John-Lewis 70 Harriott 90	(0) 3	Fylde 5,038	(0) 0

Second women's T20

Prendergast plays hero in Ireland's historic triumph

Raf Nicholson

Clontarf Cricket Club

Ireland secured their first Twenty20 win against England yesterday, completing a record run chase off the penultimate ball after Mady Villiers attempted to force a run-out, missed the stumps and allowed the two Irish batters to run an overthrow.

Orla Prendergast had struck a career-best 80 from 51 balls, but was bowled by Kate Cross off the last ball of the 19th over, with Ireland needing seven runs from the final six balls.

After Leah Paul managed a single from the first ball of Villiers's 20th over, Sarah Forbes cleared the head of Hollie Armitage at extra cover to send the second to the boundary, but Villiers then bowled Forbes and Ava Canning with successive deliveries. Christina Coulter Reilly then tapped the fifth ball back to the bowler and hared down the pitch, and Villiers's shy at the stumps allowed her to race back for a second run, sealing Ireland's win with one ball to spare.

The Ireland captain, Gaby Lewis, said she was "absolutely ecstatic" at the victory, which was screened live



Christina Coulter Reilly and Leah Paul embrace after Ireland's first T20 victory over England

on free-to-air television in Ireland. "It shows the direction we're heading in with women's sport," she said. "With the extra eyes on the game, we can hopefully expand cricket in Ireland."

Both captains, meanwhile, called for more regular encounters between the two sides, who have faced each other just five times in the 20-over format. "We need the next tour to be longer," Cross said. "Ireland are a team playing a lot of fearless cricket."

Earlier, Tammy Beaumont struck 40 from 34 balls as England reached 169 for eight in their 20 overs. It was only seven runs fewer than they had scored in the opening game on Saturday, which they won by 67 runs.

In reply, Lewis staged a 79-run partnership with Prendergast for the second wicket, putting England's bowlers and Cross's captaincy under real pressure as they bested England's own powerplay by two runs.

Ryana MacDonald-Gay, on her T20 debut, took out Lewis's middle stump with a wobble-steam delivery, but Prendergast progressed to a 39-ball half-century, sharing a second 50-run partnership with Paul. Ireland were still left needing 42 runs from the last four overs, which looked a big ask until Prendergast creamed Charis Pavey and Georgia Adams for four successive boundaries.

England fluffed two chances to see off Paul in the 18th over - Adams put down a tough rebound catch off her own bowling, before Seren Smale fumbled a stumping opportunity - while Prendergast was also put down by Cross, before the stand-in England captain bowled her next ball.

"Pressure does very funny things to people," Cross said. "What it does is highlight how calm you need to be. We had another debutant today, we

had some girls playing their second games for England. In regional cricket when there's no crowd you can sometimes get away with [mistakes], but in international cricket it's highlighted."

England finish the tour having presented a total of six one-day international and five T20 caps - something Cross recognised as an invaluable

opportunity for the next generation. "A lot of these girls have got a brilliant future ahead of them in international cricket - they've all at parts of the tour shown what they can do and why they're here, and that's been really exciting for us," she said.

Ireland had again inserted England after winning the toss, but



▼ Orla Prendergast hits a 51-ball 80 for Ireland despite her hand injury
BRYAN KEANE/INPHO/SHUTTERSTOCK

the openers Beaumont and Bryony Smith resumed at a more sedate pace than Saturday - a 44-run powerplay, as compared to a 65-run one.

England's innings gathered pace through the middle overs, as Beaumont found her stride in a 50 partnership from just 27 balls for the third wicket with Paige Scholfield.

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Third men's T20

Brook to step up as fifth England captain of the summer

Tanya Aldred

Old Trafford

Harry Brook will become England's fifth captain of the summer when he takes the armband for the upcoming five-match one-day international series against Australia. Jos Buttler has been ruled out with the same niggling right-calf injury that has kept him on the sidelines since July.

Brook, who was Ollie Pope's deputy for the Tests against Sri Lanka, will lead England for the first time, though he does have some captaincy experience. He led Northern Superchargers this summer and has a handful of games in charge of both Yorkshire and England Under-19s.

It is a vote of confidence from an England management keen to test their young players with leadership experience - especially as it was only last November that Brook admitted he was still learning how to find "the tempo" of how he wanted to play in 50-over cricket.

"It's going to be a great opportunity

for Brooky to be the captain," Buttler said. "He is a pretty laid-back character, but I think he has everything in line. He is a really good thinker about

it ... I'm sure he'll do it his own way, and he'll get a feel for those moments.

"That's what we're encouraging everyone as a side - whether that's a



▲ Ground staff pull the covers on at Old Trafford, where not a ball was bowled
DARREN STAPLES/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

player or a captain - to try and identify those moments that you think can go a long way to you winning the game and going for it and committing to it."

Brook's appointment follows a patchwork season of multiple captains, with Buttler in charge during the T20 World Cup, Phil Salt for the recent T20 series v Australia, Ben Stokes in the Tests against West Indies and Pope for the Test series against Sri Lanka. And it prolongs the sense that English cricket is in something of a holding pattern until Brendon McCullum adds the white-ball job to his rota in January, with the Champions Trophy then coming up fast in Pakistan in the spring. England hope Buttler, who has not played since England lost against India in the World Cup semi-final, will be fit for the Caribbean white-ball series in November.

As the final T20 against Australia at Old Trafford was washed out without



Scoreboard

Dublin Ireland beat England by five wickets.

England	
BF Smith c Lewis b Kelly	28
TT Beaumont c Coulter Reilly b Kelly	40
TS Smaile c Canning b AK Maguire	10
PJ Scholfield c Canning b AK Maguire	34
GL Adams b Prendergast	23
HJ Armitage b Prendergast	0
MK Villiers not out	4
C Pavely run out	8
IEC Wong run out	6
Extras (lb2, w14)	16
Total (for 8, 20 overs)	169
Fall 44, 64, 123, 134, 137, 153, 163, 169.	
Did not bat *KL Cross, RL MacDonald-Gay.	
Bowling Prendergast 4-0-31-2; Canning 3-0-26-0; Kelly 4-0-22-2; Sargent 3-0-35-0; AK Maguire 4-0-32-2; J Maguire 2-0-21-0.	
Ireland	
†A Hunter c Armitage b Cross	1
*GH Lewis b MacDonald-Gay	38
O Prendergast b Cross	80
L Paul not out	27
S Forbes b Villiers	4
A Canning b Villiers	0
C Coulter Reilly not out	2
Extras (b4, lb2, w11, nb1)	18
Total (for 5, 19.5 overs)	170
Fall 2, 81, 163, 168, 168.	
Did not bat AN Kelly, J Maguire, FA Sargent, AK Maguire.	
Bowling Cross 4-0-29-2; MacDonald-Gay 2-0-25-1; Pavely 4-0-34-0; Wong 3-0-29-0; Villiers 3.5-0-31-2; Adams 3-0-16-0.	
Toss Ireland elected to field.	
Umpires L Agenbag and R Black.	

The pair fell in successive overs at the death - both caught trying for further big shots down the ground - while Ireland tightened up their fielding to ensure Pavely and Issy Wong were run out in the final over.

Prendergast's badly grazed hand has plagued her throughout this series. It was no different yesterday:

play had to be paused for five minutes while the wound was cleaned and dressed.

But it was worth the wait for Ireland: Prendergast bowled Armitage for a duck, sent Adams's off stump cartwheeling out of the ground, and went on to play the match-winning hand with the bat.

a ball bowled, persistent rain leaving huge puddles swamping the outfield and the series drawn at 1-1, there was good news for Liam Livingstone, who hauled England to victory with both

Tennis Davis Cup

British hopes end with double defeat to Canada

Dan Evans and Jack Draper fall to straight-sets losses in front of record home crowd

Tumaini Carayol
AO Arena

At the end of a bruising week that did not play out as they had hoped, Great Britain emerged for the final day of Davis Cup competition in Manchester with just one possible path remaining for them to reach the next stage of the event: they needed to win all three matches against Canada, the strongest team in the group.

While this may have been a realistic possibility on paper, the reality played out as a painful anticlimax. Great Britain were knocked out of contention at the very first hurdle following an excellent performance from Denis Shapovalov, who dismantled Dan Evans 6-0, 7-5 in the opening encounter.

Canada finished a successful week with a 2-1 win against Great Britain as a frustrated Jack Draper fell 7-6 (8), 7-5 against Félix Auger-Aliassime in the second rubber before Neal Skupski and Henry Patten, on Patten's debut, defeated Gabriel Diallo and Alexis Galarneau 7-6 (4), 6-4.

While Canada advanced to the "Final Eight" knockout stage of the Davis Cup finals in Málaga top of Group D, Argentina qualified in second place. Great Britain finished in third with a 1-2 record after defeats against both Argentina and Canada.

"It's just disappointing," Evans said afterwards. "Watching Jack walk out there with no chance of qualifying, it's difficult and I have to - not live with it, it's not that important - but I have to deal with that. It was frustrating to not give him a shot, I really thought I could have."

'It was frustrating to not give Jack a shot, I thought I could have'

Dan Evans
Great Britain

A crushing 2-1 defeat against Argentina on Friday left Great Britain in an uncomfortable position yesterday as 15,700 fans, the largest Davis Cup crowd in Britain, convened at the AO Arena. Canada's Shapovalov and Auger-Aliassime have been in excellent form this week and Shapovalov maintained his level in a supreme exhibition of attacking tennis against Evans.

While the match was meaningless to the competition, Draper against Auger-Aliassime was imbued with more significance by their controversial last meeting when Draper inadvertently struck the ball into the ground while leading match point. The umpire did not realise the ball had bounced twice and awarded Draper the match.

"It's Davis Cup, a lot of tension and obviously with what happened last time, I was just trying to get redemption," Auger-Aliassime said. "I didn't even get to really, in my eyes, finish the match. In my eyes, it was deuce. Not to go into if it was his fault or the

Group D

	P	W	L	Results
Canada Q	3	3	0	Canada bt Argentina 2-1;
Argentina Q	3	2	1	Britain bt Finland 2-1;
Britain	3	1	2	Canada bt Finland 3-0;
Finland	3	0	3	Argentina bt Britain 2-1;
				Argentina bt Finland 3-0
				Canada bt Britain 2-1

referee's fault, that's the reality. I know it was maybe a tough time for him as well, the criticism he got after, but I had to go to bed knowing that the match wasn't finished. That's tough as well. Today was an opportunity to redeem myself."

Draper saved five set points before destroying his racket as Auger-Aliassime took the set. Although he fought until the end, Draper was outplayed by a strong Auger-Aliassime, who has bounced back well from a poor first-round defeat at the US Open. Such is the calendar, Draper will have just one day to rest before leaving for Tokyo tomorrow.

"It was a choice not to be here," Draper said. "But I put myself out there, put myself in a position to fight for the team, and it wasn't meant to be the last couple of days but I'm proud of myself and give myself a lot of credit for putting myself on the line, for coming up here to try my best for the country, for the team. It's a shame that it didn't work out, but that's sport."

The British team has now advanced from the Davis Cup group stages only once in its past three years despite being the host nation during this period. This edition was played under particularly challenging circumstances, with Draper facing a difficult turnaround and the absence of the British No 2, Cameron Norrie, because of injury.

After two difficult defeats, Evans revealed he is pondering his retirement from Davis Cup. During the week, the 34-year-old became Great Britain's second most prolific Davis Cup player having now competed in 28 ties.

"There's a good saying, which I wasn't very good at when I was younger: 'You've got to learn when to leave the party.' I need to have a think. I've obviously thought about it before. I came here being a bit hurt before. This could quite really be a week off for me if I wanted it to be. But I love representing my country."

▼ Dan Evans (left) and Jack Draper smash their rackets on a frustrating day
CAMERASPORT VIA GETTY IMAGES; ACTION IMAGES VIA REUTERS



Results and fixtures

- 11 Sept Utilita Bowl
- 1st T20 Australia won by 28 runs
- 13 Sept Sophia Gardens
- 2nd T20 England won by three wickets
- Yesterday Old Trafford
- 3rd T20 Match abandoned
- Series drawn 1-1

- Five-match ODI series
- Thurs Trent Bridge 12.30pm
 - Sat Headingley 11am
 - Tues 24 Sept Riverside 12.30pm
 - Fri 27 Sept Lord's 12.30pm
 - Sun 29 Sept Bristol 11am

bat and ball on Friday. Initially left out of the ODI squad, he was called up in the absence of Buttler and as Josh Hull was out with a quadricep injury.

"It's a reward for good performances and also dealing with the disappointment of being left out in a very good fashion," the interim white-ball coach, Marcus Trescothick, said. "The way he approached it at the back end of the Hundred, then the preparation time in between the Hundred and this series, he's done what you want him to do."

Trescothick was also enthusiastic about working with Brook. "We've seen him in the Hundred, and I think you can see the approach that he goes about it. I don't think it'll be much different to what we've had here with Phil doing the job ... they come from the mould of what we're trying to do - which is a positive style of cricket." The ODI series starts at Trent Bridge on Thursday ... autumn permitting.

Sport

Formula One Azerbaijan Grand Prix

Results and standings

1	Oscar Piastri Aus	25pts
	McLaren Mercedes 1hr 32min 58.007sec	
2	Charles Leclerc Mon	18pts
	Ferrari +10.910sec	
3	George Russell GB	15pts
	Mercedes +31.328sec	
4	Lando Norris GB	*13pts
	McLaren Mercedes +36.143sec	
5	Max Verstappen Neth	10pts
	Red Bull +77.098sec	
6	Fernando Alonso Sp	8pts
	Aston Martin +85.468sec	
7	Alexander Albon Tha	6pts
	Williams Mercedes +87.396sec	
8	Franco Colapinto Arg	4pts
	Williams Mercedes +89.541sec	
9	Lewis Hamilton GB	2pts
	Mercedes +92.401sec	
10	Oliver Bearman GB	1pts
	Haas Ferrari +93.127sec	

Also finished

11	Nico Hülkenberg Ger Haas +93.4675sec
12	Pierre Gasly Fr Alpine +117.189sec
13	Daniel Ricciardo Aus RB +146.907sec
14	Zhou Guanyu Chn Kick S +148.841sec
15	Esteban Ocon Fr Alpine R +1 lap
16	Valtteri Bottas Fin Kick S +1 lap

Not classified

17	Sergio Pérez Mex Red Bull DNF
18	Carlos Sainz Jr Sp Ferrari DNF
19	Lance Stroll Can Aston Martin DNF
20	Yuki Tsunoda Jpn RB DNF

Championship standings

Drivers: 1 Verstappen 313pts; 2 Norris 254; 3 Leclerc 235; 4 Piastri 222; 5 Sainz 184; 6 Hamilton 166; 7 Russell 143; 8 Pérez 143; 9 Alonso 58; 10 Stroll 24

Constructors: 1 McLaren 476pts; 2 Red Bull 456; 3 Ferrari 425; 4 Mercedes 309; 5 Aston Martin 82; 6 RB 34; 7 Haas 29; 8 Williams 16; 9 Alpine 13; 10 Sauber 0

*Fastest lap 1:45.255



Piastri edges Baku battle as Norris closes on Verstappen

Giles Richards

Engrossing and impossibly tense, Formula One might consider itself flattered if the final third of this season delivers with the same compelling drama as the Azerbaijan Grand Prix. An old-school race of nose-to-tail duelling at the front, won by McLaren's Oscar Piastri from Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, the streets of Baku hosted an immense struggle.

Moreover it was a race that might be considered by McLaren as a pivotal moment when, against the odds, Piastri's teammate Lando Norris also kept his title hopes alive with a comeback drive from 15th to fourth.

Piastri's win, the Australian's second in only his second season in F1, was enthralling from the moment he took the lead from Leclerc on lap 20 and then defended it for 30 laps

as the Monegasque driver ducked, dived and hurled himself at Piastri's gearbox at every opportunity.

For almost the entire fight they were separated by just half a second, a contest decided not by DRS but by the men behind the wheel. Piastri was the deserved winner after the dramatic denouement of a high-speed crash between Red Bull's Sergio Pérez and Ferrari's Carlos Sainz. Vying for third on the penultimate lap, both cars crunched heavily into the wall but the drivers were unhurt.

Piastri said: "That ranks as probably the best win of my career. Trying to soak up that pressure for so long, that was tough. I saw an opportunity or half an opportunity after the pit stop and knew I had to try and take it. I knew that getting to the lead was going to be one thing, but I knew I had my work cut out for me after that."

That Piastri was in position to take the lead was owed in part at least to

his teammate Norris. The irony of Norris assisting Piastri after a week in which McLaren had been discussing team orders in Norris's favour was impossible to ignore yet Norris's performance was the accompanying solo piece that made the race special.

Norris had started from 15th after being caught out by a yellow flag in qualifying, his race expected to be a case of damage limitation. Yet he came through the field to take fourth and beat his title rival Max Verstappen into fifth. After taking new tyres Norris had a 15-second deficit to the Dutchman and 13 laps to close it - he did so with two to spare when he went past the world champion.

An expected swing toward Verstappen had turned into a three-point gain for Norris, cutting the lead to 59 points with seven races remaining, the title still just within touching distance. In the process he had also played the team game,

holding up Pérez after his pitstop to ensure Piastri maintained second place after he had pitted. This was no small feat in that it ensured the Australian had the chance to make the move on which the race turned, plunging up the inside of turn one to take the lead from Leclerc.

It was a bold move, so much so Leclerc admitted he had not expected it and thus had not moved to defend. Piastri had put it all on the line, fighting to scrub the speed off his car as he managed to wrangle it into the

corner, a hair's-breadth from the barriers. Were evidence needed, here was the ruthless eye and touch of a champion, backed by an iron nerve to execute flawlessly in defence against a charging Leclerc. Piastri was the complete package in Baku.

For McLaren, the win and Norris's comeback was a moment to savour too. They have now overtaken Red Bull in the constructors' championship by 20 points, the first time they have led the title race for a decade. The scale of that achievement, given



▲ Carlos Sainz and Sergio Pérez crash in the closing stages in Baku
F1

Pivotal victory for Piastrini in Azerbaijan

Oscar Piastrini overtakes Charles Leclerc and (inset) celebrates in style

HASAN BRATIC/DEFODI IMAGES/SHUTTERSTOCK



how low they had sunk in the 2010s, is a remarkable testament to the turnaround the team has wrought.

The team principal, Andrea Stella, had to take a breath to put his thoughts on the race in order. "What brilliance in Oscar's drive and what team work," he said.

"Lando did a bit of the job in helping Oscar today, then what a recovery from 15th. Just such a strong team, such strong drivers. I'm very proud of them."

The significance of these strengths will not be lost on Red Bull, who remain flailing. Verstappen's woes, a litany of complaints about the handling, balance and grip of his car to his team were all too familiar and while he may enjoy a cushion in the title fight his team do not.

They will of course understandably rue the late crash between Pérez and Sainz as the pair fought at the death. Sainz had slipped past the Mexican and he and Pérez hit one another on the back straight, promoting Mercedes' George Russell to third place.

Investigated afterwards, the stewards declared it a racing incident but the careening explosion of carbon fibre was enough to ensure the race ended under the virtual safety car, a finale that did nothing to diminish what had been a captivating contest.

Golf Solheim Cup

'Stressed' US reclaim trophy after Hull gives battling Europe hope

Briton beats world No 1 but Vu sinks putt to give cup to US for first time since 2017

Ewan Murray

Robert Trent Jones Golf Club

They say Virginia is for lovers. The US ensured the overdue resumption of its relationship with the Solheim Cup on an afternoon when the heroics of Charley Hull almost inspired her European teammates towards the making of history. Watching golf fans were given cause to remember why the Solheim Cup is held in such deep affection. The event will return in the Netherlands in 2026; a wait that for now is unsatisfactory.

It feels like an understatement to point out Suzann Pettersen's European contingent battled hard to keep their hands on the trophy for what would have been a record-breaking fourth time. The US held their nerve. The scoreline of 15½ to 12½ did justice to that and a European team who lacked nothing in heart. Far from bursting through the tape, the hosts at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Club stumbled over the line like an exhausted marathon runner.

The Solheim Cup remains golf's most engaging team competition simply on account of competitive closeness. Before a singles ball was struck, the outcome felt a formality. Late in the final session, a subdued gallery emphasised American

wobbles. Lilia Vu, in match nine of 12, was the one to get the party started.

One player who did not deserve to feature on a losing team was Hull. The English golfer's task had appeared a thankless one, taking on Nelly Korda at the head of proceedings with Europe already trailing 10-6. Hull battered the world No 1 into submission, completing a 6&4 win which offered Pettersen brief hope of an incredible turnaround. If this does not provide the 28-year-old Hull with belief she can end her wait for a major win, nothing will. Korda could only laugh at the hopelessness of her situation on the par-five 14th as Hull struck a seven iron, her second shot, to within inches of the hole. Game over.

"Suzann said to me they always knew I was going to play Nelly first and that if anyone could beat her, I could," Hull said. "So that gave me good confidence. I shot eight under with my own ball yesterday, and today I was seven under through 14 holes. I know I have what it takes to play Nelly, and I feel like I still left a few shots out there."

'Suzann said they knew I could beat Nelly so that gave me confidence'

Charley Hull
Beat Nelly Korda 6&4

Final day singles

Europe players in blue

C Hull bt **N Korda** 6&4
M Khang bt **E Pedersen** 6&5
G Hall bt **AL Lee** 4&3
A Corpuz bt **Anna Nordqvist** 4&3
R Zhang bt **C Ciganda** 6&4
E Henseleit halved with **AN Lee**
C Boutier bt **Lexi Thompson** 1up
M Stark halved with **L Coughlin**
L Maguire bt **A Ewing** 4&3
A Valenzuela halved with **L Vu**
M Sagstrom bt **S Schmelzel** 1up
J Kupcho bt **L Grant** (Swe) 2&1

Overall Score

United States 15.5 Europe 12.5

Georgia Hall further boosted European hopes with a 4&3 win against Alison Lee. The US jabbed back via the outstanding Megan Khang, who beat Emily Pedersen 6&5. Allisen Corpuz and Rose Zhang claimed further American wins to bring the hosts to within a point and a half of success. Yet the atmosphere was an edgy one; Europe led in four of the seven matches still on the course.

There was no surprise whatsoever attached to the fact Lexi Thompson was at the epicentre of drama. The 29-year-old, who plans to retire at year's end, seems to live in a permanent sporting soap opera. She was 3up on Céline Boutier after 11 before the Frenchwoman went on a birdie run - five in seven holes. Boutier won the match on the final green.

Fine margins. There are always fine margins. Maja Stark was 3up after 10 against Lauren Coughlin before losing two of the next three holes. Stark found water with a mishit on the 14th, which squared the game and afforded the US a little more leeway. Andrea Lee restored parity with Esther Henseleit on the 16th green. That halved match - the first

of the competition - edged the US to within one point of victory, at 13½ to 10½. Coughlin, in her home state, had a 20ft putt to win the cup at the last after Stark rattled her birdie try 10ft past. Amazingly, Coughlin left her attempt short. Stark boldly holed out for half a point. The US were the same distance from victory.

Attention now turned to the European debutant Albane Valenzuela, who was 1up on Vu playing the 18th. The Swiss's approach shot was only average, a matter Vu seized upon by striking a wedge to tap-in range. Valenzuela missed from 30ft, leaving Vu to complete the formalities of a US triumph, their first since 2017. Jennifer Kupcho defeated Linn Grant to make up the numbers. Madelene Sagström did likewise to Sarah Schmelzel.

For the hugely impressive US captain Stacy Lewis, this provided vindication. "It was so stressful to watch," she admitted. "Fortunately this time we were on the right side of it."

Lewis's team had the cup within their grasp last year in Spain, only for Europe to snatch a 14-14 tie. That outcome, and so recently, perhaps explains how nonplussed Pettersen appeared as Europe stared at defeat here.

The Norwegian's decision to omit Leona Maguire from three sessions - and both on day two - has not been adequately explained. Maguire returned to the course with a point to prove and defeated Ally Ewing 4&3, which only raised further questions about the Irish golfer's lack of action. She did not sound particularly happy about the situation, describing it as a "bitter pill to swallow".

Maguire said of Pettersen: "She didn't give much reason, to be honest. The feeling I got was that I was a little bit too short and didn't make enough birdies but I think I proved today there's more than one way to skin a cat. I made plenty of birdies today." This Solheim Cup had its fittingly ferocious parting shot.



◀Lexi Thompson lifts the Solheim Cup, a win which was especially poignant for the Floridian as she is retiring from the game at the end of the year
SCOTT TAETSCH/GETTY IMAGES

Barnes' blast sinks stumbling Wolves as Howe calls for 'unity'

Wolves

Lemina 36

Newcastle

Schär 75, Barnes 80

Jonathan Wilson
Molineux

If there is a civil war raging in the background, it seems to be suiting Newcastle very well. For all the tension between the manager, Eddie Howe, and the sporting director, Paul Mitchell, they have won three and drawn one of their opening four games of the season, leaving them third on goal difference behind Arsenal in second.

It was not a perfect display from Newcastle, far from it. A lot of the limitations of their squad were clear, but Howe took decisive action with a triple substitution at half-time and had his reward as one of the players he brought on, Harvey Barnes, scored a brilliant winner with 10 minutes remaining, cutting in from the left past Nelson Semedo and smashing a 25-yard drive inside the far post.

"Winning is everything," Howe said, before a line that seemed extremely pointed. "The best way to do that is to be unified - that means the players, the supporters and the coaching staff and I'll do everything to keep that unity."

This is Newcastle's best start to a Premier League season in 29 years - "a great platform," Howe said. He acknowledged, though, that there is still work to be done. "It fell in line with other games this season. We've played really well in passages but not all the way through. What shines through is the ability to find a way

through. We can get better but on the whole it was an improvement."

For Wolves, the sense of anxiety is mounting. They have won just one of their last 14 Premier League games, taking just six points from the past 42 available. There were promising signs on the counterattack, but plenty of teams have found that ruts, once got into, are not easily departed.

"There was an awful lot of good in it," Gary O'Neil insisted, "but two moments have cost us points - one unfortunate and one really disappointing. We knew the run of fixtures was tough but today's performance and how far we pushed a Newcastle side who were in the Champions League last season ... there was a lot of good in that. I see a team that stuck together, produced an awful lot of quality and went toe-to-toe with a team who are going to be higher up the league than us."

It was a dank grey afternoon to match the general mood, the brutalist

School of Art looming through the murk above the Sir Jack Hayward Stand like a terrible warning of utopias past, dominating the Wolverhampton skyline in a way Jørgen Strand Larsen has yet to manage.

Larsen, though, is far more than his extreme height and he played a key role in Wolves' opener, which came as a double surprise both in that it was the home side who took the lead, and in the quality of the move. It began with Sean Longstaff's pass being intercepted then, as Wolves broke, Larsen held off Dan Burn before crossing low. João Gomes stepped over it, wrongfooting Newcastle's retreating defence, leaving Mario Lemina a simple finish.

Newcastle had looked the livelier against a distinctly rickety Wolves back four, Anthony Gordon hitting a post. He had impressed for England during the international break and he had another dangerous game, but the concern before half-time was that he

was responsible for the vast majority of Newcastle's attacking spark. Alexander Isak has not yet been at his best this season, while right wing was an area Newcastle sought, without success, to strengthen in the summer and Jacob Murphy was, at best, only intermittently creative. Barnes has looked menacing but, like Gordon, he prefers to be on the left.

Howe's solution, conditioned by an eye injury Isak sustained just before half-time, was to make a triple change at the break, with Barnes replacing Isak and Gordon moving into the centre. Joelinton, booked for a frustrated challenge towards the end of the first half, and Longstaff were also withdrawn, with Sandro Tonali and Joe Willock coming on.

The pattern, though, remained similar to the first half: Newcastle with the ball and Wolves with the threat. Larsen and Matheus Cunha both hit a post, and Nick Pope made a number of fine saves. Then, with quarter of an hour remaining, a speculative Fabian Schär shot glanced off Craig Dawson and looped over Sam Johnstone's dive to equalise. But if that was fortunate, the winner, five minutes later, was exceptional.

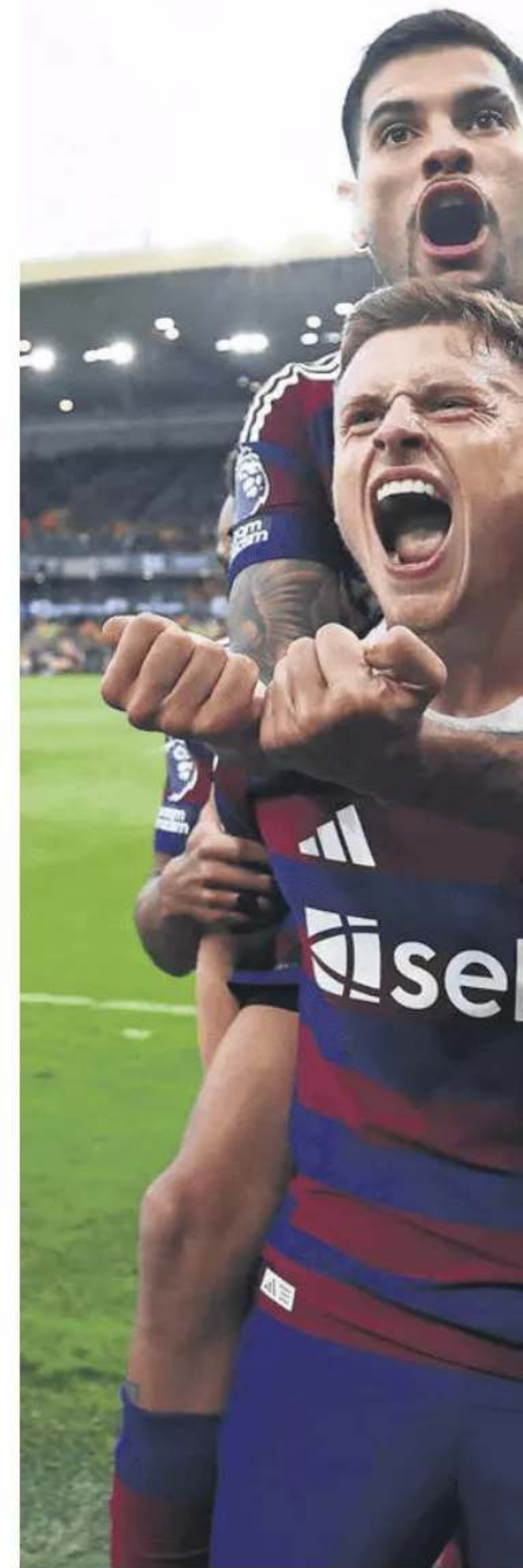
Howe's job now is to work out if there is a way to generate threat on the right and to protect a central defence that struggled with Larsen, issues at least in part caused by the failure to reinforce this summer. But for now, after the anticlimactic nature of last season, the comparative lack of action in the transfer market and the background rumblings, 10 points from four games represents an extremely positive start.



▲ Wolves' Sam Johnstone can do nothing to stop a late Harvey Barnes strike
NICK POTTS/PA WIRE

Wolves	Newcastle
4-4-2	4-3-3
Johnstone; Semedo (Doherty 77), Mosquera, Dawson, Ait-Nouri (Forbes 86); Lemina, J Gomes, André (Doyle 77), Bellegarde (Hwang 71); Cunha, Larsen (Guedes 86)	Pope; Livramento (Trippier 64), Schär, Burn, Hall, Longstaff (Tonali ht), Guimarães (Kelly 87), Joelinton (Willock ht); J Murphy, Isak (Barnes ht), Gordon
Subs not used: Sá, Bueno, R Gomes, Sarabia	Subs not used: Dubravka, Krafth, Osula, Almirón

Referee Chris Kavanagh Attendance 30,255



Premier League Saturday's talking points

Aston Villa 3 Everton 2

Unai Emery must be loving some of the problems he is facing as Aston Villa embark on their first elite European campaign in more than 40 years. As he tries to pick a team to beat Young Boys, the Villa manager has the conundrum of trying to maximise the output of Ollie Watkins and Jhon Durán, and keep both happy. While Watkins looked sharper and scored his first two goals of the season on Saturday, it was Durán who again came off the bench to score the winner in some style. "We have to think about how we can play with two strikers," Emery said. "This is the challenge I have." **Peter Lansley**

Bournemouth 0 Chelsea 1

Jadon Sancho had become English football's lost boy before Chelsea signed him on loan with an obligation to buy for £20m. Even considering Chelsea's dealings,

signing another winger when Pedro Neto had only recently been added to a rich collection of wide players seemed curious, yet Enzo Maresca spoke at Bournemouth of Sancho's signing being part of a plan. After a supporting role in fellow substitute Christopher Nkunku's winner and a decent second-half performance in general, Sancho might finally show off his talents on these shores. "The first day I came in, they made me feel welcome and I'm so happy to feel this comfortable," said a player reported to have been banished to eating from his car at Manchester United. **John Brewin**

Brighton 0 Ipswich 0

The meeting of the Premier League's two youngest managers ended in stalemate; the type of contest euphemistically referred to as an intriguing tactical battle. Brighton had 21 shots to Ipswich's six, as Kieran McKenna's team defended in a dogged style rather

different from their opening three matches. The goalkeeper Arijanet Muric was afterwards praised by McKenna as Fabian Hürzeler singled out Ipswich full-back Axel Tuanzebe for his shutting down Kaoru Mitoma. For Ipswich, each game so far has seen positive signs but a first win evades them. A cutting edge is what they require most. **John Brewin**

Crystal Palace 2 Leicester 2

Eddie Nketiah showed enough promise during his Crystal Palace debut to suggest he can prove a



▲ Eddie Nketiah showed impressive signs on his debut for Crystal Palace

shrewd acquisition for the south London club. Nketiah spent too long on the periphery at Arsenal but the chance to secure regular football at Selhurst Park could be a defining moment in his career. The 25-year-old striker had six shots during Palace's comeback draw against Leicester and was involved in some of their best attacks. "Everyone can see he is a threat," said Palace's manager, Oliver Glasner. "He had good movement and runs between the lines. He was a little bit unlucky not to score. It was a good debut for Eddie." **Simon Mail**

Fulham 1 West Ham 1

When West Ham replaced David Moyes with Julen Lopetegui they presumably did not imagine that they would be playing route-one football four games into the new season and against Fulham it was hard to see much evidence of Lopetegui making his new team more expansive. West Ham were

reliant on long balls during the first half and were even reduced to Michail Antonio hurling a couple of long throws into the area. In fairness, the stodginess in possession was partly down to Lucas Paquetá starting on the bench after returning from international duty. Yet it was strange that Lopetegui adjusted by starting Tomas Soucek as a No 10. The plan backfired and West Ham were lucky to leave Craven Cottage with a point. **Jacob Steinberg**

Liverpool 0 Nottingham Forest 1

A lot of the focus was on how Nottingham Forest clogged the midfield to frustrate Liverpool before bringing on two wingers to change the game for their first victory at Anfield in 55 years. What might have gone unnoticed was the performance of their full-backs Ola Aina and Alex Moreno. Neither are household names, the former a free transfer from Torino and the latter on loan after underwhelming



**Newcastle
roar into
life with
late goals**

Harvey Barnes gives Bruno Guimarães a lift as Fabian Schär joins in celebrating the winner
ALEX LIVESEY/
DANEHOUSE/
GETTY IMAGES

at Aston Villa. They were both excellent at Anfield against some of the Premier League's finest wide players; Aina kept Luis Díaz quiet on the left while Mohamed Salah up against Moreno put in one of his most disappointing performances in a Liverpool shirt. **Will Unwin**

Manchester City 2 Brentford 1

Pep Guardiola scythed down fatigue as an excuse after the first of seven matches in 22 days for his team. A student of his players' application and attitude, he welcomed a season prolonged by June's first 32-team, quadrennial Fifa Club World Cup, with Internazionale next up in Wednesday's Champions League opener. "Its more games but it is what it is," said Manchester City's manager. "We have to adapt." Manuel Akanji offered a different take. "You can't just keep adding game after game and assume everything will be like it was," said

the defender. "You have to think about the players," **Jamie Jackson**

Southampton 0 Manchester United 3

The last time Southampton were promoted to the Premier League and lost their first four games they finished 14th. That was 2012-13, Mauricio Pochettino replaced Nigel Adkins halfway through the season, Rickie Lambert was up front and their Japanese summer signing was not Yuki Sugawara but Maya Yoshida. Sugawara has been one of the positives this campaign and was one of seven summer signings to start this defeat as Russell Martin sought a winning formula. It did not materialise but the Southampton manager is convinced they can avoid relegation. "I'm happier with the level of performance this season than I was at this stage last season," said Martin, whose side lost four successive games in the Championship last September. **Ben Fisher**

Explainer What the charges against City mean

As an independent commission prepares to assess the 115 charges, here is everything you need to know

**Jamie Jackson
Paul MacInnes**

What are the accusations against Manchester City?

The Premier League has charged the champions with more than 100 breaches of competition rules between the seasons 2009-10 and 2022-23. The charges cover four areas: a failure to give "a true and fair view of the club's financial position"; a failure to "include full details" of player and manager remuneration; breaches of national and continental financial fair play regulations; and a failure to "cooperate with, and assist, the Premier League in its investigations". The counts will be heard by an independent commission, starting today, in what is thought to be a London location.

Do we have specifics?

The Premier League has published only an extended charge sheet, with no details. The timeframes, however, suggest the charges line up with claims already in the public domain. First, that City inflated the value of sponsorship deals as a means of channelling more money from their owners into the club. Second, that secret payments were made to the manager Roberto Mancini and to the then agent of Yaya Touré. Third, that these acts left the club contravening financial rules. Fourth, that when the Premier League sought to investigate the claims, City obstructed it. City have always denied any wrongdoing.

Why do the charges matter?

Because of their seismic nature and implications, whatever the verdict. Because they are unprecedented in the domestic game. And because of City's dominance. In the 14 seasons covered by the charges, City won seven Premier League titles, six League Cups, three FA Cups and the Champions League. Since then they have won another Premier League, the Uefa Super Cup and the Fifa Club World Cup. They have played in the Champions League every season from 2011-12. This has driven the global pre-eminence of the Premier League and increasing transfer fees (City's squad is worth £1bn-plus). There are arguments, too, that it has affected competitive



▲ Payments to Roberto Mancini will be looked into as part of the hearing

balance here and across Europe, led to the near-development of a breakaway Super League (of which City were a part) and quickened the need for independent regulation of English football. In February 2023 when the charges were brought the La Liga president, Javier Tebas, called the English top flight a "doped market". On Friday, he told Mundo Deportivo: "I have spoken with many Premier League clubs and most of them understand that City should be sanctioned." If City are judged to have found success while breaking the rules, the game will come under greater scrutiny.

What happens next?

Under Premier League instruction, Murray Rosen KC has selected three people to form the independent commission that will hear the charges, with one member of this panel required to be a financial expert. The hearings will be conducted privately and experts believe it will take a minimum of two months. When the commission publishes its verdict, either side can go to an appeals panel and, after this, arbitration. If all fails, either could attempt to find an argument to take to the high court. Under the rules of association of the Premier League there is no opportunity for either party to go to the court of arbitration for sport (Cas) in Switzerland.

If guilty, what could the punishment be?

According to rule W.51 in the Premier League handbook, a commission has the ability to levy a range of sanctions against any club found to have broken the rules. These include fines, the docking

of points and suspension, or even expulsion, from the competition. Subclause W.51.7 states the commission can "impose upon the respondent any combination of the foregoing or such other penalty as it shall think fit". That even leaves open the possibility of City being stripped of their titles.

What do City say?

On the record the club says it "welcomes the review" and the opportunity to "impartially consider the comprehensive body of irrefutable evidence that exists in support of its position". Club sources also say City were not told of the charges before they were published online. Finally, they argue the club has been under investigation for breaching financial rules before, and were cleared.

Haven't we been here with Uefa?

In 2020 Uefa suspended City from the Champions League for two years for "overstating its sponsorship revenue in its accounts" between 2012 and 2016, part of the same period covered by the Premier League's charges. But that sanction was overturned on appeal by Cas. Cas found a number of the claims brought by Uefa had fallen outside a five-year "time bar" which prevented historical charges. But the tribunal also argued that one key charge over payments relating to sponsorship by Etihad Airlines was "not established". The panel said Uefa had submitted insufficient evidence and that, if its case had been correct, then City employees who had given testimony to Cas would have had to have been lying.

Is this the result of 'Football Leaks'?

Uefa found City in breach of its financial fair play regulations in 2014 but reached a settlement under which City paid a €20m (£17m) fine and submitted reduced squads to the Champions League. The revisiting of alleged irregularities came after the document hack known as "Football Leaks" in 2015 exposed what appear to be official documents and email communication from inside City, alongside a number of other football organisations. These documents are understood to also have prompted the Premier League's investigation. City have described Football Leaks as part of "an endless attempt to damage us".



▲ City are accused of not fully disclosing player and manager remuneration
GETTY IMAGES/SPORTSPHOTO/ALLSTAR

Gabriel rises to occasion to swing derby Arsenal's way

Tottenham 0

Arsenal 1

Gabriel 64

Possession



Shots on target



Total attempts



David Hytner

Tottenham Hotspur Stadium

Injustice. A costly suspension. Injuries. Erling Haaland. The schedule. Arsenal had watched the obstacles line up in front of them and they knew what everybody was thinking:

champion teams in the making find a way to cope. To Mikel Arteta's delight, Arsenal coped.

After the dropped points against Brighton, the draw shaped and scarred by Declan Rice's controversial red card, and the loss of Martin Ødegaard to injury on Norway duty, it was a day for a makeshift lineup to dig deep.

It was epitomised by the toughness of the centre-halves, Gabriel Magalhães and William Saliba; they led an intimidating last line, which featured a standout performance from Jurrien Timber at left-back. Arsenal suffocated a Tottenham team that began brightly but ran into walls.

Manchester City had won again on Saturday, Haaland scoring the goals against Brentford, but how Arsenal found a response, the celebrations loud after a third successive win in the back yard of their fiercest rivals.

The decisive moment had familiar

trimmings. Two of Arsenal's goals in the 3-2 win here last season came from corners. So when Bukayo Saka sent over a second-half corner, there was a sense of déjà vu for Tottenham. Guglielmo Vicario was boxed in, Arsenal's physicality pronounced yet again and there was Gabriel to power home the header. The victory was the perfect start to a difficult week for Arsenal. After a Champions League trip to Atalanta on Thursday, they travel to City on Sunday.

For Spurs, there was only frustration. Ange Postecoglou is not a man for compromise. Everybody knew how the manager would try to play and his starting XI reinforced the message, James Maddison and Dejan Kulusevski in attacking midfield roles, looking to push behind the front three. His team simply could not make it happen. The Carabao Cup trip to Coventry on Wednesday has assumed greater significance.

With no Rice and no Ødegaard, Arteta paired Jorginho with Thomas Partey in midfield and asked Kai Havertz and Leandro Trossard to work as the central forwards in front. It was Jorginho's first action of the season and only the second time he had started a game with Partey. On both of the previous occasions, Partey had played at right-back.

Arsenal had to learn on the hoof and Spurs were in the mood to ask questions of them at the outset. The first half flew by, tempo high, some of the transitions dizzying. The aggro was a big part of it, too. Naturally.

Spurs raged when Timber clattered into Pedro Porro; he looked to have got his boot to the top of the ball before rolling into the Spurs full-back and there was a confrontation between Timber and a furious Vicario, which led to a melee. Timber was booked for the tackle, which was about right. There was not enough in

it for a red card. Vicario was booked for his reaction; one of five Spurs cautions in the first half. Choice cuts included Destiny Udogie on Saka and Micky van de Ven on Trossard.

Spurs almost contrived the early breakthrough. Kulusevski shot at David Raya while he almost profited after whipping in an inswinging cross from the right, which went through a crowd. Raya had to have seen it late, which made the tip away at full stretch more impressive. There was irritation for Spurs when they forced Ben White into a loose pass and Dominic Solanke had a clear shooting chance. He did not unload quickly enough and Saliba blocked.

Back came Arsenal. Arteta was unhappy when Gabriel Martinelli curled weakly at Vicario after being sent clear up the inside left by Trossard while moments earlier, the Spurs goalkeeper had saved smartly from a towering Havertz header.

Amid all of the physical stuff leading up to half-time, there were further flickers of actual football. Maddison crossed deep for Solanke, who looped a header just past the far post. Kulusevski won the ball in a crowd and fed Brennan Johnson, who lashed high.

Could we have a moment of quality amid the maelstrom? Solanke was crowded out at the start of the

Heading for all three points

Gabriel Magalhães meets a Bukayo Saka corner with a towering leap to score the only goal of the game

TONY O'BRIEN/REUTERS

6

Arsenal have won **six consecutive away league games** for the first time since March-September 2013, when they won eight in a row under Arsène Wenger

4

Spurs have won just **four points** so far this season (W1 D1 L2), their fewest through their opening four matches of a campaign since 2015-16 (3 - W0 D3 L1)



second half as he attacked a header; Van de Ven flashed another at Raya from the ensuing corner. It was from one at the other end that Arsenal edged ahead. Of course it was.

Arsenal won it after a slick counter, ignited by Trossard's volley and featuring good hold-up play by Havertz and a Saka shot that was blocked. When Saka bent in the kick, it was impossible to ignore the mass of bodies that engulfed Vicario. He could not get out to the ball, which Saka had dropped into the ideal area. Gabriel applied a bit of pressure into Cristian Romero's back and, when he rose, the conversion was straightforward.

What did Spurs have left? Very little. Maddison drew howls when he tried to usher in Solanke rather than shoot and he was replaced by Timo Werner, Postecoglou moving Son Heung-min into a more central role. The die had been cast. Arsenal would not be breached.

Tottenham
4-3-3
Vicario; Porro, Romero, Van de Ven; Udogie; Kulusevski; Bentancur (Sarr 68); Maddison (Werner 80); Johnson (Odobert 68); Solanke, Son
Subs not used
Forster, Dragusin, Gray, Bergvall, Spence, Davies

Arsenal
4-4-2
Raya; White, Saliba; Gabriel, Timber; Saka (Nwaneri 86); Partey, Jorginho; Martinelli (Sterling 80); Havertz, Trossard (Jesus 80)
Subs not used
Neto, Kiwior, Kabia, Kacurri, Lewis-Skelly, Heaven

Referee Jarrod Gillett Attendance 61,645

Analysis

Barney Ronay Tottenham Hotspur Stadium



◀ William Saliba points out Gabriel Magalhães as the main man after his second-half goal
JUSTIN SETTERFIELD/GETTY IMAGES

Set-piece killer Jover part of mania for detail that separates the Gunners from Tottenham

Yes, well, of course that was going to happen. Ange Postecoglou has a particular manner on the touchline, a way of standing in the same spot for long periods of time, fists bunched in his pockets, a little hangdog and sad, like a long-suffering dad at sports day.

As this slow-burn north London derby ticked down towards its inevitable endgame, as the sight of Arsenal's set-piece coach leaping up at the edge of Postecoglou's eyeline became ever more potent and ominous, there was a sense also of a man being chased down by the fates, like the doomed priest in *The Omen*, fate foretold by the shadow of the church spire sticking out of his back.

Let's face it, this is how these things work. If you say you're not interested in set pieces after losing one north London derby on set-piece goals, and not interested because you just want to play a more expansive holistic game, football logic states very clearly that you will definitely lose the next one that way, too. And that you will do so after playing really quite well, with some nice holistic-process stuff chucked in.

And so it came to pass here. In part because it was always going to, but mainly because Arsenal made it happen. It is a good cinematic detail that Mikel Arteta's team won this game thanks to a single clean header from a corner. But zoom out a little and set-piece clarity is just part of the package, a symptom of this Arsenal era's mania for detail.

This is a minutely planned sporting entity from pressing to passing combinations. So, yes, of course that includes corners, headers and getting in the way artfully. You don't challenge

for a league this way. But it certainly helps.

The decisive moment arrived on 64 minutes. It was a classic one-two. As Bukayo Saka took a right-wing corner there was a distracting surge past the front post. The ball went to the back, where Gabriel Magalhães produced a wonderful wrench of the neck to thump his header into the back of the net.

It is an interesting part of the dynamic that for an hour it had been tempting to wonder if this was the kind of afternoon where Arsenal would miss having a sniper, a finisher, a one-shot killer. It was a scruffy game, not so much a boxing match as the football equivalent of the kind of brawl inside a Wetherspoons that ends on YouTube, all haymakers by the pool table and wild flying air-kicks.

Have there ever been so many bookings for pulling your man back in the centre circle? This was a free for all of pulling-back, no quarter asked, none given in the pulling-back-in-the-centre-circle



Mikel Arteta and Nicolas Jover (right) celebrate Arsenal's win

stakes. It always seemed to be narrowing towards a moment. And as the goal went in the realisation arrived that Arsenal do have a killer in their ranks.

His name is Nicolas Jover, the set-piece specialist, who was immediately engulfed by a group coach hug, and who was still up on his feet looking a bit wild and emotional as the game restarted. You can add Gabriel to that too, whose goal here was the fifth time he has scored the winner for Arsenal.

It should be said that Postecoglou isn't some kind of luddite anti-set piece fanatic. Spurs do have a new coach who takes care of this side of things. But Arsenal are just better at it. There were four Spurs set-piece deliveries into the box in the opening 10 minutes here, all of them won by Arsenal players quite comfortably.

Jover has been called a revolutionary, a game-changer, a visionary. He certainly must have incredible thighs. His entire afternoon is basically a series of squats and leaps and sprints, as set pieces come and go. It is a slightly weird new dynamic all round. Will the set-piece coaches ever stop leaping up? Why don't goalkeeping coaches leap up whenever there's a shot or a penalty kick? Why don't the analytic guys leap and stare intently from the touchline during each period of slow possession?

But then the current focus is also a fad to some degree, the Premier League and its broadcasters mining fresh meat, fresh content. Perhaps before long we can look forward to a set-piece coach golden age, from the great Scottish mining stock set-piece coaches, a set-piece Clough a set-piece Ferguson, our first set-piece coach Mourinho, the smouldering bad boy?

The reality, of course, is that Arsenal won this game in many other ways, all of them connected to the same mania for detail and planning. The midfield was missing not just Declan Rice but Martin Ødegaard, but made up for it in energy and scuffle.

Jurriën Timber and Gabriel Martinelli looked like a classy little two-hander on the left at times. Leandro Trossard worked really hard in the centre, even managing to tear his shirt theatrically, opening up a door in his chest, C-3PO-style. Even the 17-year-old Ethan Nwaneri came on and battled impressively. By the end the details were enough. Including, of course the obvious one.

Football In brief

Scottish Premiership

Lawrence earns victory for troubled Rangers

Tom Lawrence's early goal proved decisive as Rangers found some respite amid troubled times with a 1-0 win over Dundee United at Tannadice. Rangers responded quickly after a sorry 3-0 defeat at Celtic before the international break, the returning midfielder Lawrence scoring in the seventh minute with a clever finish. John Bennett stepped down as Rangers chairman on Saturday due to health reasons - with the club already searching for a chief executive, a director of football and an academy director. The nervy victory for Philippe Clement's side, which took them above United into third place in the table, will go some way to lightening the mood at the club. **PA Media**

Championship

Mowatt's double sends West Brom top of table

Alex Mowatt's second-half double sent West Brom top of the table with a 3-0 victory over winless Portsmouth. The in-form striker Josh Maja opened the scoring at Fratton Park after just 54 seconds, converting a Tom Fellows cutback. It was Maja's fifth goal of the campaign, making him the Championship's leading goalscorer. Mowatt then struck twice after the break to put the unbeaten West Brom a point ahead of Sunderland at the summit. **PA Media**

La Liga

Barça still 100% while Gallagher opens account

Barcelona's Lamine Yamal struck twice in a 4-1 win at Girona yesterday which extended their perfect start to La Liga with a fifth successive win. Dani Olmo and Pedri were also on target for Hansi Flick's side. Meanwhile, the former Chelsea midfielder Conor Gallagher scored his first goal in Atlético Madrid colours with the opener at home against Valencia in a 3-0 victory last night. Antoine Griezmann doubled their lead and Julián Álvarez also scored his first Atlético goal since his summer move from Manchester City to wrap up the three points. **Reuters**



Conor Gallagher savours his first goal for Atlético Madrid

America's cup US resist brave fightback from Europe to seal Solheim victory



Page 39 →

What crisis? Barnes fires Newcastle into third despite 'civil war'



Page 40 →

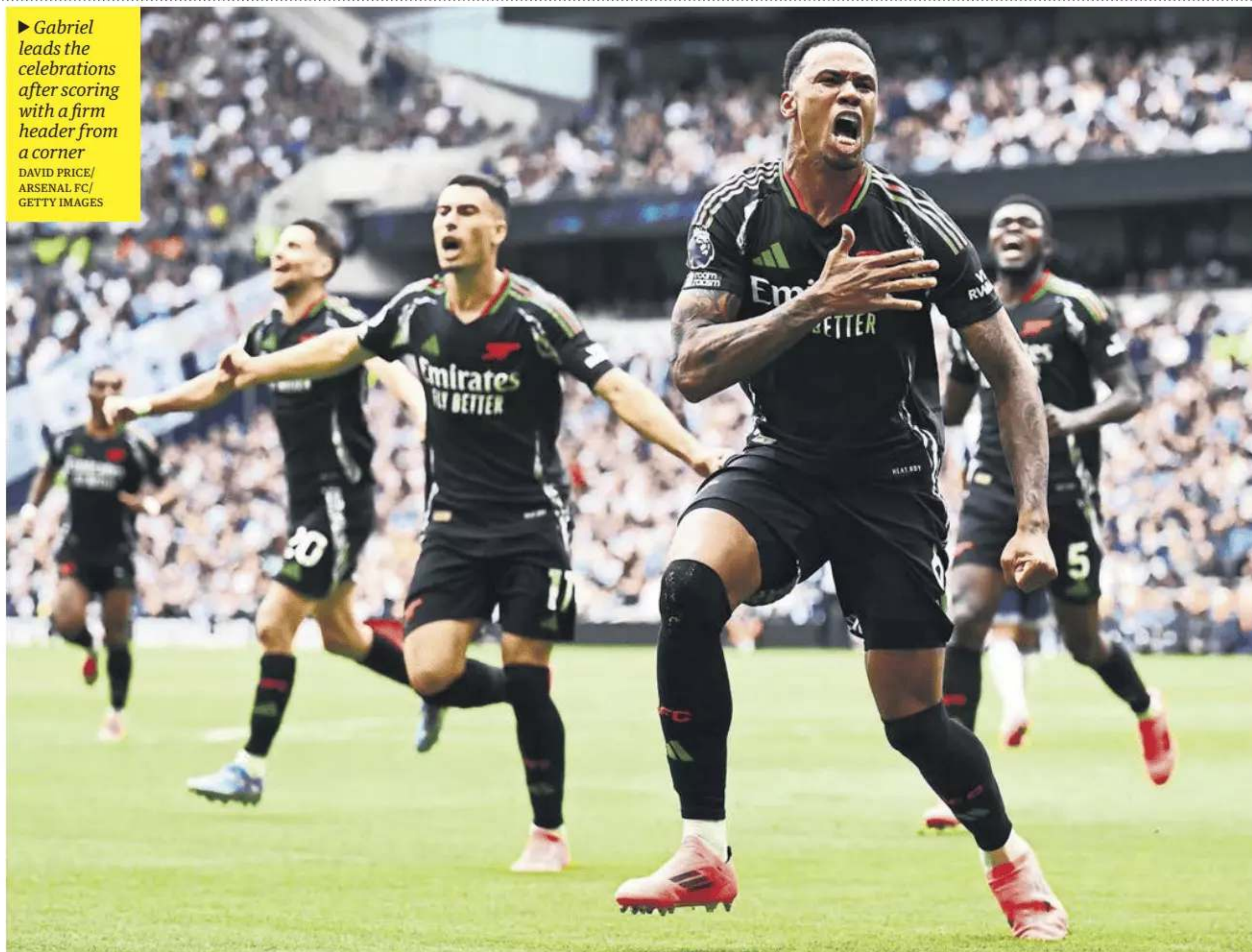
The Guardian
Monday
16 September
2024



Sport

► Gabriel leads the celebrations after scoring with a firm header from a corner

DAVID PRICE/
ARSENAL FC/
GETTY IMAGES



England not facing Euros expulsion, key officials stress

Sean Ingle

An independent football regulator (IFR) will not jeopardise England's participation at Euro 2028 or Premier League clubs playing in Europe.

That was the message from sources at Uefa and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) yesterday after a leaked letter from European football's governing body to the culture secretary, Lisa Nandy, warned there should be "no government interference in the running of football". However, Uefa sources have insisted that the letter from its general secretary, Theodore Theodoridis, was mostly positive and that its concern was less about the independent football regulator and more about the extent of its powers.

Theodoridis's letter, which has been seen by the Guardian, stresses that it was "encouraged by the intent of the original fan-led review". However it reminds Nandy that the intention was that "this regulatory area should be returned to the FA [Football Association] in time".

Uefa's biggest concern is about the potential for what it calls "scope creep" within the IFR. "While the initial intent of the IFR is to oversee the long-term financial sustainability of clubs and heritage assets, there is always a risk that, once established, the IFR may expand its mandate beyond these areas," the letter states.

Theodoridis then lays out the potential consequences for such interference. "We have rules that guard against this in order to guarantee the autonomy of sport and fairness of sporting competition," he writes. "The ultimate sanction would be excluding the federation from Uefa and teams from competition."

However, Uefa sources have stressed to the Guardian that such a threat would be a last resort and the possibility of England's exclusion from Euro 2028 - which will be co-hosted by the UK and Ireland - or Premier League clubs missing out on Europe remains extremely unlikely. Sources at the DCMS have also played down fears of such a punishment.

The DCMS is expected to respond to Uefa's letter but has stressed that there have been no previous concerns raised by European football's governing body, which has been engaging alongside the Football Association with the new government over the development of the bill.*



Tottenham



Arsenal

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Gabriel 64

'He is the best in his field' Arteta praises set-piece coach after more derby glory

Ed Aarons

Tottenham Hotspur Stadium

Mikel Arteta paid tribute to Arsenal's set-piece coach, Nicolas Jover, for injecting his players with belief after their narrow win in the north London derby kept up the pressure on the Premier League leaders Manchester City.

Gabriel Magalhães's second-half header from a Bukayo Saka corner was enough to give Arsenal a third successive victory at their arch-rivals for the first time since the 1980s as Arteta's side overcame the absences of the suspended Declan Rice and injured captain Martin Ødegaard in

midfield. It was the 17th goal they have scored from a corner since the start of last season and 42nd from a set piece since Jover was recruited from City in 2021.

The Frenchman led the wild celebrations with Arteta in the dugout, and asked whether he is the best in his field, the manager said: "In his field, in other fields and as a person. And the relationship we have - that's why I made the decision to bring him to City when I was there and then Arsenal."

"Him and the rest of the staff have injected the belief to the players that there are many ways to win football matches. This is a really powerful one and he has given us a lot."

Tottenham were 3-0 down at half-time in the corresponding fixture in April after conceding two goals from set pieces. Ange Postecoglou insisted last season that "there are far more important things that we need to concentrate on" but he has since recruited the former Hibernian manager Nick Montgomery to take charge of that area of the team.

Asked if they had spent more time working on set pieces to counter Arsenal's threat, Postecoglou said: "For some reason people think I don't care about set pieces. We work on them all the time but we paid the price today. It's my burden to carry and I'm happy to do that. For us the way forward is

to try and turn the football we are playing into something meaningful."

Arsenal head into the showdown at the Etihad Stadium next weekend trailing the champions by two points. They must first travel to Italy to begin their Champions League campaign against Atalanta on Thursday. Arteta revealed he is waiting for news on Ødegaard's ankle injury and on Saka, who sustained an injury here.

"We have won three years in a row here. That's a big thing," the Spaniard said. "We have a big week coming up and that is going to give us a lot of motivation, energy and belief."

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